

THE  
BIRD FANCIER'S  
NECESSARY COMPANION  
AND ~~7288 a. 40~~  
SURE GUIDE;  
BEING  
AN EASY WAY  
OF BREEDING  
CANARY BIRDS,  
AND THE BEST METHOD  
OF  
CHUSING AND KEEPING THEM,  
BOTH FOR  
BREEDING AND SONG.

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ADORNED WITH CUTS.

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*Inest sua Gratia Parvis. VIRG.*

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LONDON,

Printed for THOMAS HOPE, opposite the North Gate of  
the Royal Exchange, Threadneedle Street. MDCCLX.  
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BIRD FANCIES

NECESSARY COMPARISON

1508/1531.



CANARY BIRDS

AND THE BEST METHOD

OF

CHIRPING AND KEEPING THEM

NOTES FOR

BREEDING AND SONG

ILLUSTRATED WITH CUTS

By the Rev. J. C. Merrett

LONDON

Printed for Thomas Horn, opposite the North Gate of  
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THE  
BIRD FANCIER'S  
NECESSARY COMPANION,  
AND  
SURE GUIDE.

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IN TWO PARTS.

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PART I. *Publicola*  
CONTAINING  
CURIOUS REMARKS  
ON THE  
*Nature, Sex, Management and Diseases*  
OF  
ENGLISH SONG-BIRDS.

WITH  
PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS for distinguishing the  
COCK and HEN, for *Taking, Chusing, Breeding,*  
*Keeping,* and teaching them to *Sing,* for discover-  
ing, and curing their *Diseases,* and for making  
*Engines, Lime-Twigs, &c.*

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L O N D O N :

Printed for, and sold by, THOMAS HOPE, facing the North  
Gate of the *Royal-Exchange,* in *Threadneedle-Street,* and  
by THOMAS GRINAWAY at the *Bird-Cage,* facing St.  
*Sepulchre's Church,* on *Snow-Hill.* 1762.





To Mr. HOPE, the *Bookseller*.

S I R,

**I**N the Circle of my Acquaintance, I have frequently found both the Gentlemen and Ladies, who delight in Song-Birds, bred in our own Country, at a great Loss for proper Directions to find their Nests and Haunts; to estimate their Abilities or Qualifications; to distinguish their Sex; to bring them up from the Nest; to feed them in full Strength; to nurse them in moulting Time, and to cure them, when fallen into any accidental Distemper: And as I have many Years been an Admirer of that beautiful and sweet-singing Tribe, and by Experience gained a perfect Knowledge of those Particulars, I have sent you my Observations and Method, that you may publish them for the Instruction of those, that want Help in the Art of *Bird-fancying*; and if they happen to give Satisfaction, it will fully answer the End of my Trouble, who am,

Yours, &c.

PUBLICOLA.







THE  
Bird-Fancier's Companion.

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PART I.  
Of ENGLISH SONG-BIRDS.

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THE ABERDIVINE.



HIS Bird, which in an Alphabetical Order, appears at the Head of the *English* feathered Choir, is the same as is known in *Sussex* by the Name of *Barley-Bird*; 'because it is never found in that County till Barley-seed Time. Mr. *Willoughby* calls it the *Siskin*, perhaps from its Name *Seisel*, by which this Bird is known in *Austria*; for he adds, that it is common in *Germany* and *England*, and kept in Cages for its singing; which overturns that Opinion of its being a Bird of Passage, not breeding in *England*, but coming from the cold Northern Regions to seek for Shelter in our Island during the Winter.

It is made pretty much like a grey *Canary-Bird* both in Size and Colour, but the Cock is distinguished by a black Spot on his Head, and a little black under his Throat: And the Hen is more upon the grey, with a spotted Breast and Belly. Both of them are familiar, not sly nor crafty, and easily to be taken by any Engine or Contrivance.

They frequent the Alder-Trees and such others, as grow by the Sides of Rivers, and Bird-Catchers take them in the same Manner as they do *Linnets*, *Goldfinches*, &c. and feed them like those Birds; but they love the white Seed.

The Season for taking them is in Winter, for they seldom are seen in Spring: Their Note is very pleasing, and they are very lively and merry in the Cage.

## THE BLACKBIRD.

EVERY Part of *England* is delighted with the harmonious Notes of the *Blackbird*; it is undoubtedly a Native of this Island, and is accounted the largest Song-bird found therein.

The Cock is generally the blackest while young, and the Circle about its Eye is yellow, and his Bill is black; not turning perfectly yellow, till he is a Year old. The Bill of an old Cock Bird is of a deep yellow, and his Feathers, which were at first of a dark Russet, or Brown, with Ash-coloured Bellies, turn Coal-black.

The Hen is distinguished principally by having the Tip and upper Part of her Bill black, the rest of it and her Mouth being yellow, like the Cock's.

This Bird is remarkable for its early going to Nest, which is before the Trees shoot their Leaves, or the Frost is gone; for the *Blackbird* has Young Ones generally by the Middle of *March*.

The



The Nest is built with much Art, out of Moss, slender Twigs, Bents and Fibres of Roots, all very strongly knit and cemented together on both Sides with Clay, with a Lining made of small Straws, Bents, Hair, or any soft Matter that the Bird can pick up. Its Cavity generally measures two Inches and an half in Depth, of an oblong Figure, being at Top about four Inches Diameter one Way, and five the other; so that it is easily discovered, especially, as it is generally exposed in a Hedge near the Ground, and so early, before the Bushes are clothed with Leaves.

The Bird itself measures eleven Inches from the Tip of the Bill to the End of the Tail; the Bill being one Inch, and the Tail four Inches long; and she lays either four or five Eggs, of a bluish green Colour, full of dusky Spots.

The Young Ones may be taken at ten Days, and if kept clean in their Nests and well fed with any lean fresh Meat (every two Hours or thereabout) minced very fine with Bread, a little moist, they will thrive; when they grow too big for the Nest, or it grows foul, put them into a Cage or Basket upon clean Straw; and when able to feed themselves, separate them and feed them with any sort of fresh Meat raw or dressed, provided it be neither stale nor sour, setting them Water when fully grown, to wash and prune their Feathers. *N. B.* Country Boys feed them with Cheese-curd, or white Bread and Milk.

This Bird answers best when brought up from the Nest, the Old Ones, if caught, being unwilling to be tamed, being a solitary Bird, and used in the Fields to feed upon Berries and Insects.

The Cock brought up in a Cage whistles and sings all the Spring and Summer-season, in a very pleasant natural Note, and when taught



whistle and play a Tune to a Pipe with great Exactness.

Though the *Blackbird* be stout and healthy, it sometimes is found drooping, on which Occasions give him a House Spider or two, or five or six Hog Lice in a Day, and mix a little Cochineal in his Water.

## THE BULLFINCH.

**T**HE *Bullfinch*, which is known in different Parts of this Island by the several Names of *Nope*, *Thickbill*, and *Hoop*, is a Native of *England*, and takes its Name with us from its large black Head. It is in great Esteem both for its Beauty and singing; for though its wild Note be of the hooping Sort, having no Song of its own, both the Cock and the Hen may be taught by a Pipe or Whistle, to excel all small Birds in singing, if taught when young; and also to talk, beginning with them at about six Days after taken.

This Bird builds its Nest in an Orchard, Wood or Park, where there are Plenty of Trees, or upon Heaths, in a very ordinary Manner and with little Art. Her Eggs are bluish with faint reddish Spots, and one large dark brown Spot at the biggest End, and are no more than four or five in Number; and are seldom hatched before the End of *May*, or the Beginning of *June*; but this the Hen repeats two or three Times in a Summer.

Do not take the young Birds till they are well feathered, twelve or fourteen Days old; feed them every two Hours, a little at a Time, with Rape-Seed soaked in clean Water for eight or ten Hours, then scalded, strained and bruised, mixt with an equal Quantity of white Bread soaked in fair Water, and boiled with a little Milk to a thick Consistency, and

and made fresh every Day, otherwise it will sour and spoil the Birds.

When they can feed themselves, break them by Degrees, and as soon as possible from this soft Food, and use them to Rape and Canary-Seed, using most of the Rape, as for *Linnets*. Some try them with *Wood-Larks* Meat, and fine Hemp-Seed, when out of Order. Do not forget to supply them with Water when grown up, and if they chance to droop, put a Blade of Saffron into the Water.

When young, the surest Way to distinguish the Cock and Hen is, when about three Weeks old, to pull off a few Feathers from their Breasts, and when those Feathers sprout again, in about ten or twelve Days, the Cocks shall be of a curious red, the Hens of a palish brown.

When grown up, the Cock has a flatter Crown, and excels the Hen in the Beauty of his Colours, his Breast being of a fine scarlet or crimson, and the Feathers on his Crown and about his Bill of a brighter black than those of the Hen. Their Size is no more than six Inches from the Tip of the Bill to the End of the Tail, of which the Tail is two Inches.

The *Bullfinch* in its wild State, feeds chiefly upon the Buds of Fruit-Trees, and by that Means are accounted very hurtful to Gardens, and draw upon them the Wrath of Gardeners, who are always intent upon their Destruction.

## THE CHAFFINCH.

THE *Chaffinch* is a Native of *England*, and a stout, hardy, and common Bird, of the Size of a *Bullfinch*. This Bird builds its Nest near the Top of a high Hedge, or on the Branches within a Tree, in the prettiest Manner of all small Birds.



Birds; this Nest measures in the Cavity, one Inch three Quarters Deep, the Diameter, two Inches and an half; the Outside made of green Moss, small Sticks, withered Grass, Horse and Cow-hair, Wool, Feathers, &c. the Inside of Feathers, Hair, Wool, &c. yet the Bird itself is six Inches long from the End of the Bill to the Tip of the Tail, of which the Tail is two Inches and an half; and she lays four or five Eggs in that little Space, which are whitish, with a few reddish brown Spots, and a few small Specks or Streaks of the same Colour at the biggest End.

These Eggs seldom produce more than four Birds, which are fit to be taken in ten Days; they are hardy, easy to be raised, and fed like the *Goldfinch*: But they being very plentiful and easily taken at their Watering-place in *June* and *July*, few take the Trouble of bringing them up from the Nest; though that is the Way to have the best Singers, if brought up under other Birds, called *Sweet-Song Chaffinch*.

The *Chaffinch* is lavish in its Song, and when brought up from the Nest, or Branchers, will sing six or seven Months in the Year, whereas the wild not above three; but the greatest Part of these Birds will not answer the Trouble and Expence in keeping them. There is a cruel Method directed by some Writers to teach this Bird to sing when grown up, but as I apprehend no humane Person would put it in Practice, I shall not mention it. The *Essex* Birds are accounted the best Singers, and they commonly sing what is called *Whitford Tune*, and *Chopping Lim*.

The Cock Bird at ten or twelve Days old is distinguished from the Hen by having much more white in his Wing, particularly on his Pinnion; his Breast redder, and all his Feathers higher and brighter



brighter than the Hen's. An old Cock's Head is bluish, the Back a reddish brown, with a Mixture of Ash-colour or green, the Breast a fine purple red, and the Belly under the Tail white; the Hen's Feathers are grey on the Breast.

## THE GOLDFINCH.

**T**HE *Goldfinch* (by some called *Thistlefinch*, because in Winter it lives on Thistle-Seeds; and *Draw-Water*, for its Dexterity to help itself with Water by drawing it up with a Bucket, in the Cage) is a Native of *England*, and found and esteemed every where in this Island, both for its singing and Beauty, being the finest feathered of all Cage Birds, and so long lived, that Mr. *Willoughby* mentions one that lived twenty-three Years. It flies in Flocks, and in its wild State delights to feed upon Seeds of Thistles, Teasel, Hemp, Dock, &c.

It begins to build in *April*, and its Nest is the prettiest of all small Birds. The Outside is made of very fine Moss, curiously interwoven with other soft Matter; the Inside is lined with the finest Down, Wool, &c. Its Situation is generally out of Sight and hard to come at, pretty high on the Branches of an Apple-Tree, where the Bloom and Leaves intercept the Sight; though these Nests are sometimes found in the Elder-Tree, and in Thorns and Hedges.

The *Goldfinch* brings six or seven Young Ones at a Time, and that three or four Times in a Summer, which, being tender, must not be taken till ready almost to fly. Their Meat must be white Bread, soaked in fair Water, then strained and boiled in a little Milk to the Consistence of Hasty-Pudding, adding to it a little Flour of Canary-Seed. They

They must be fed every two Hours at least, daily, giving them two or three small Bits at a Time, and no more, they being very tender, and this Meat must be fresh made every Day. In about a Month begin to break them of this Meat, by giving them a little Canary-Seed besides the soft Meat; and when they are found to feed pretty freely upon the Seed, keep them constantly to that Diet.

But these Birds are to be taken almost at any Season with Lime-twigs or the Clap-Net. They fly in *June*, *July* and *August*, but the best Time to catch them is about *Michaelmas*, in Land over-run with Thistles, Hemp, &c. They, caught in this Manner, will sing presently, and feed on Hemp-Seed, &c. but the most wholesome Diet for them is Canary-Seed, the other Seeds frequently rot them, and spoil their Colour.

To improve their Song bring them up under the *Canary-Bird*, the *Wood-Lark*, or any other fine singing-Bird; and some have been taught to talk.

The Cock Bird, bred from the Nest, will couple with a Hen *Canary-Bird*, and produces a Bird between both Kinds, partaking of the Song and Colours of both.

The Cock is thus described; a Ring of curious scarlet-coloured Feathers encompasses the Fore-part of his Head or Basis of his Bill; a black Line reaches from the Eye to the Bill on each Side; his Jaws are white; the Top of his Head black, with a broad black Line descending on both Sides almost to the Neck; the Back-part of the Head is white; the Neck and Fore-part of the Back are of a reddish Ash-colour; the Rump, Breast and Sides a little paler; the Belly whitish; the Wings and Tail black, with white Tips to the principal Feathers; and his Wings are most beautifully traversed with  
yellow



yellow or Gold-coloured Streaks ; this must be understood of a Bird in its Prime, for the *Goldfinch* sometimes varies from these Beauties by Age and other Causes. It is five Inches and a Half from the Tip of the Bill to the End of the Tail, of which the Tail makes two Inches, the Bill a little more than half an Inch.

This Bird is of so mild and gentle, or rather contented Nature, that, when taken, it will fall to its Meat and Drink, and be thoroughly reconciled to its Cage and Company. It is much admired when sent to the *Canaries*.

In this Situation the *Goldfinch* may be taught to draw the Water it is to drink, and there are Cages made for that Purpose ; and to lift up the Lid of a small Box with its Bill, to get to the Meat, &c. and fix a Glass to the Back of the Bucket-Board, and this Beauty will sit upon his Perch, admiring itself and rectifying every Disorder in his Plume, by placing every Feather in the nicest Order.

If at any Time this Bird droops, put a Blade of Saffron in its Water ; if it scours, crumble a little dry Chalk in his Cage, or amongst its Seed, or stick a Bit between the Wires, and hang a little Groundsel fresh every Day for to pick ; or give it a little Lettuce-Seed or Thistle-Seed, and always keep the Bottom of the Cage strewed with red Sand or Gravel, for that will qualify and take the Oil of the Seeds off the Stomach.

## THE GREENFINCH.

**T**HE *Greenfinch*, otherwise the *Green-Linnet*, and the *Greenbird*, is a Native of this Island, of a strong, hardy Nature, and a little bigger than the *Chaffinch*.



Its Nest is large, one Inch and a Quarter deep; and four wide; its Outside made of Hay, Grass, Stubble, &c. the Middle-part of Moss; the Inside of soft Feathers, Wool, Hair, &c. built in Hedges; the Bird being from the Tip of the Bill to the End of the Tail six Inches and an Half, of which the Bill is half an Inch, and the Tail two Inches and a Quarter.

She has five or six Young Ones at a sitting, about the Middle of *May*, which may be taken at ten Days old. Feed them as you do *Linnets*, or *Finches*, and keep them clean, and they will thrive. When drooping treat them as you do the *Chaffinch*, and you may catch them in the same Manner.

The Cock's Head and Back are green, with grey Edges to the Feathers; the Middle of the Back hath something of a Chestnut-colour intermixed; the Fore-part of his Head, Neck, Breast, and quite down to his Belly and Rump are of a deep yellowish green, the Lower-part of the Belly inclining to whitish; the Edges of the outermost Quill-Feathers, and the Feathers along the Ridge of the Wing are of a bright yellow. Thus, if we regard its Colours, this Cock is as finely feathered as most Birds, and makes as pretty a Shew in an Aviary; but I cannot recommend his Ability in singing in Cages; indeed it is kept to ring Bells, in a Cage contrived for that Purpose: Though by Chance, some brought up from the Nest will learn to pipe, whistle and sing the Note of other Birds.

## THE SPARROW.

**T**HE *Hedge-Sparrow* recommends itself for its Familiarity and Docility. It will become so familiar as to fly tame about House; and besides its own natural, sweet, and various Notes, it will take

take the Song of the best singing Birds, when properly placed with them; and this must be done when taken out of the Nest at double Pen-feather.

It is not over curious, nor sly in building its Nest, which is found almost in every Hedge and Bush, low and open, consisting of fine green Moss, plaited with a little Wool and Hair.

The Hen lays commonly five Eggs of a fine pale blue, or Sea-green Colour; and her Young, which are hatched at the End of *April* or Beginning of *May*, are taken at ten Days old, and will thrive, if fed with fresh minced Meat and Bread, very fine and moist, or with *Wood-Larks* Meat. When brought up, feed them with Hemp and Canary; if drooping, give them whole Oatmeal in it.

The Cock has a longish slender Bill of a dusky Colour; the upper Side of his Body is a Mixture of black and dirty red; his Breast black. The Hen is of a brighter Colour on the Back, and fainter on the Breast.

## THE COMMON LINNET.

**T**HE *Common Linnet* is thought to excel all small Birds in its singing; his Note is curious, and he can take off the Pipe, Whistle and Song of any other fine Bird.

This Bird builds commonly in a thick Bush or Hedge; sometimes in the Thorn, both black and white, and sometimes amongst Furze and Broom.

Its Nest is made of Bents, dried Weeds and other stubby Matter for the Outside, the Bottom being all matted together; the Inside is neatly compacted of fine soft Wool, mixed with the Cotton or Down gathered from dried Plants, with a few Horse-hairs. Its Depth one Inch within and three in Diameter.



The Bird, including Bill and Tail, is five Inches and a Half long, of which the Bill is half an Inch, the Tail two Inches and a Quarter.

The *Linnet* lays four or five Eggs, and has her first Brood about the Beginning of *May*: They may be taken at ten Days old, or sooner; then is the Time to put them to learn under another Bird. But they must be kept very warm, and feed them as directed in the *Bullfinch's* Meat. When able to feed themselves, give them a little scalded Rape-Seed; and when they have thus fed a Week, you may give them a little of the *Wood-Lark's* Victuals, or some other soft Victuals, till they are able to crack their Seed, which will be at about six or seven Weeks old.

The Cock distinguisheth himself by having a browner Back than the Hen, and by the white of his Wings. Take the Linnet, when the Wing-feathers are grown, and stretch out his Wing, and if you find the second, third, or fourth Feather white up to the Quill, it is a certain Mark of a Cock Bird.

*Linnetts* also turn out well, when caught with Bird-lime or Nets, if properly taken Care on; this is done in *June, July* and *August*, and the Flight-Birds are catch'd about *Michaelmas*.

Both the Branchers and Flight-Birds must be put into a Store-Cage fit for the Purpose, and fed with some of the Seed found on the Land where they were taken, with a small Mixture of Hemp-Seed bruised. Let them stand in a Window, or other convenient Place, where they shall not be disturbed, for three or four Days; then Cage them up in Back Cages, if you have them, and feed them with Rape, mixed with a small Matter of Canary, and a few Corns of Hemp. If drooping, give them a little Lettuce-Seed or Beat Leaf, and put a small Piece



Piece of Liquorice, or a Blade of Saffron in their Water, and now and then a little seeded Chick-weed. If scowered, give them a little Chalk, a little bruised Hemp-Seed, and now and then a Stalk of Plantane-Seed, if green; if not, give the Leaves shred small. If the End of the Rump be swelled, when it is ripe, let out the Corruption with a Needle, and anoint the Part with fresh Butter, and nurse them as above directed.

As this is the most general singing Bird in our Country, I will shew you how to stop this or any other Bird, and make them sing, after they have moulted off.

Your Bird must be a Year old and upwards, before you stop him, and kept in a Back-Cage, that he may be able to find his Meat in the dark. About the Middle of *May* put your Birds into a Cage made on Purpose, leaving the Door open till you are satisfied that they can find their Meat and Water; then darken them by Degrees, till they be quite dark, and when you are sure they can find their Meat and Water, cover them up with a Blanket and keep them very hot; look at them every two or three Days, give them fresh Water and blow their Seeds, but do not clean their Cages above once a Month, because the Heat of their Dung forces them to moult; only flat their Dung down with a Stick or a Knife, to prevent dirtying their Feathers. Being kept thus close for three Months, they will be moulted off; then open the Cage by Degrees, first take off the Blanket, then in three or four Days open the Door a little Way, and take them out and clean their Cages, and put them in again, with their Door half open for two or three Days longer; then take them out and put them in a warm Place, where they may come to the Air by Degrees; then put them in a little Beat-  
Leaf

Leaf and Liquorice, with a Blade of Saffron in their Water; by this Method you will obtain Birds that will sing better, stronger, and longer than others.

## THE NIGHTINGALE.

**T**HE *Nightingale* is accounted the best of Song-Birds, and is both large and strong. Though this Bird does not appear at large in this Island during the Winter, we find them building their Nests amongst us in the Beginning of *April*, in a close, thick Quickset Hedge, pretty low, a little above the Edge of the Bank, and most commonly where Briars, Thorns, Bushes, &c. grow very thick; and they make them of Leaves of Trees, Straws and Moss, in a very different Manner from all others.

She lays four or five Eggs of a brown Nutmeg-colour: And the Young Ones, which are hatched toward the latter End of *May*, ought to be well fledged before taken; if they prove fullen, open their Mouths, give them two or three small Pieces at a Time, and in a few Days they will come too, and feed themselves. When you take them, put the Nest into a little Basket, and keep the Birds covered up warm, or the Cold will kill them. Feed them every two Hours by Day, with two or three small Bits at a Time, of Sheeps-Heart, or other fresh Meat raw, well cleaned and freed from Fat, Strings, Skin and Sinews, and chopped very fine, mixed with Hen's Eggs hard boiled: In a few Days they will take their Meat off from the Stick themselves; then, you may Cage them in the *Nightingale's* Back-Cage, with Straw or dry Moss at the Bottom. When they come to be large add some Ant's Mould, and learn them to feed upon Meal-

Meal-Worms, Spiders, Ants, and other Insects which are good for them in Sickness.

The Cock is distinguished by its deeper and brighter Colour, in grown Birds: In Nestlings, when he has eaten he gets upon the Perch, and immediately begins to tune to himself, which is seldom or never done by the Hen.

To find out its Nest, observe where the Cock sings, if he continues long in a Place the Hen is not far off, and the Nest is within a Stones throw; if there be Young Ones, the Cock will stroll, but then the Hen may be heard to sweet and cur: And if you cannot find it by searching, stick two or three Meal-Worms upon the Thorns, near where you have observed the Cock most frequent, and if you keep close and still, he will come and carry them to his Brood, which makes such a Noise, when fed by the Old Ones, as to give a certain Mark to discover their Nest. When you have found the Nest, and they are not fledged enough, do not touch them, for if you do, the Old Ones will intice them out sooner than common.

To preserve this valuable Bird in Health, nothing conduceth more to it, than to keep them and their Cages clean and neat, with dry Gravel twice a Week at the Bottom. He is particularly subject to Sickness in Autumn; if he grows fat and foggy and falls off from his Stomach, then give him three Times a Week two or three Meal-Worms, or Worms taken out of a Pigeon's House, or two or three Spiders a Day, which will purge and cleanse him well, but when his Fat falls keep him warm, and give him a little Saffron in his Water.

Should they grow very lean and poor, give Figs chopped small amongst their Meat till they have recovered their Flesh.



This Bird is subject to the Gout, after two or three Years Continuance in a Cage. Anoint their Feet with fresh Butter, and it will cure them in three or four Days. The same Remedy will cure them of Breakings out about the Eyes and Nib.

If they grow melancholy, sweeten the Water with white Sugar-candy; and if that does not restore them, add to their constant Meat three or four Meal-Worms a Day, and a few Ants and Ant's Eggs, and some of their Mould at the Bottom of the Cage, amongst which strew a hard Egg chopped very small, and put a Blade or two of Saffron in their Water.

This Bird is sometimes troubled with a straitness or strangling of the Breast, occasioned chiefly by a bad dressing of his Victuals. He shews his Complaint by gaping, and an unusual beating and panting of his Breast; take him out gently and open his Bill with a Quill, and pick out the String, Piece of Flesh, &c. that shall be found to hang about his Tongue or Throat, then give him some white Sugar-candy in his Water, or else dissolve it and moisten his Meat, which is a present Remedy for any Thing that is amiss.

If they Dung a little looser than common, give a little Hemp-Seed bruised or ground very well, about the Quantity that will lie on a Silver Groat, and mix it well with a Sheep's-Heart and Egg.

Their common Food in Summer is Sheep's-Heart raw, chopped very fine, and an Egg boiled so hard as to be grated; sprinkle it with a little Water, and mix it, till it becomes as thick almost as a Salve, but moist; make no more at a Time than will last the Day. In Winter parboil the Heart, mix it with the Egg, and moisten the Mixture with a little of the Heart Liquor, suffering no Fat to go in.

If you would take Branchers and old *Nightingales*, you must lay out for the Branchers in *July* and the Beginning of *August*, for old *Nightingales* in the latter End of *March* or Beginning of *April*. Those taken in *March* or before the twelfth of *April*, are accounted the best Birds; because the Cocks after that Time, being matched with their Hens, are so rank, that they can seldom be preserved.

The Manner of taking them, is to find out their Haunts, which is usually on the Side of a Chalk or Sandy Hill; in a Wood, Coppice or Quickset Hedge: Then set a Trap, or Lime-Twigs, as best suits your Convenience.

One sort of Trap is made by a Hole in the Ground; with a Board or Tile resting on a Stick, stuck with two or three Meal-Worms, which being moved by the Birds coming eagerly to catch the Worms, the Bird falls into the Hole and the Cover upon it. But this does not come up to that which is properly called the *Nightingale's* Trap: It is a little bigger than a round Trencher, on which is fastened a green Silk Net, a Watch-Spring and a Wire as round as the Trencher or Board. There is a little Cork that comes through, and a little String, which also comes through and holds up the Trap; in which is stuck a Pin with a Meal-Worm upon it, and the Cork so very slight in it, that when the Bird pulls the Worm, the Net falls upon it and confines the Bird. This Trap must be fixed as near as possible to the Place where the Birds sing; and before it is fixed, turn up the Earth about twice the Bigness of the Trap, for they always look for Food where the Ground is new turned up.

If you would take these Birds with Lime-Twigs, place them upon the Hedge near where they sing,



with Meal-Worms fastened to proper Places to entice them.

The Bird being caught, tie the Tip of his Wings with Thread, not too hard, but so as to prevent his beating himself against the Top and Wires of the Cage. And in two Hours cram him with three, four, or five Pieces as big as Peas, made of Sheep's-Heart and Egg shred small and fine, and mingled with a few Ants or Meal-Worms; opening his Bill with a Stick made thin at one End, and taking Care that the Meat be not too dry. Repeat this every two Hours at farthest; and when come Home, put the Birds in a *Nightingale's* Back-Cage, or throw a Cloth over one Side of another Cage.

When you have crammed your Prey thus for a Day and a Half, offer them a little Meat in a Pan, and stick it full of Ants: If the Ants are picked out, add more Ants about half an Hour after, and so continue to entice them till they begin to feed, still keeping their Wings tied.

A kindly Bird will sing in a Week's Time; and when they become easy, contented and familiar, hang them up any where and loose their Wings. Birds that are long a feeding, and do not sweet and cur for eight or ten Days, seldom are good. Remember when a Bird is first taken, that you clean his Vent from Feathers, by pulling or cutting them off, for should the Vent be clogged up, he will certainly die.

### THE RED-POLE.

**T**HE *Red-Pole* is a very pretty feathered Bird. The Cock's Head and Breast are of a fine red; the Hen's Head is also red, but not so brilliant.



liant. It is not in any Esteem for singing, though it chatters a pretty Song.

It seems to be a foreign Bird, its Nest never being found in *England*, nor itself seen here, except in Winter. It is taken and caught as *Linnets*.

## THE RED-START.

**T**HE *Red-Start* is a small Bird, somewhat less than the *Robin Red-Breast*. It is not to be met with in *England* during Winter; but we find it early in the Spring building its Nest in the Holes of old Walls, Trees, &c. in such Places as the *Wren* frequents. Its Eggs are not so big, and of a paler blue than the *Hedge-Sparrow's*, which are hatched about the Middle of *May*. The Young Ones may be taken at ten Days, and must be fed and ordered as directed for the *Nightingale*; and if kept warm, they will take the Notes of other Birds, and sing in the Night as well as in the Day.

The Old Ones are of a dogged, fullen Temper, if taken and caged, but the Young Ones are brought up gentle and tame.

The Cock is very beautiful, having a Breast, Rump and Tail of a fine red; a Back, Neck and Hind-part of its Head Lead-colour; a jet black Throat and Fore-part of its Head; with a white Mark upon its Pole. He is distinguished from the Hen chiefly by his black Head, and sings melodiously, doubling his Notes very fine. The Hen greatly resembles the Colour of the *Nightingale*, and is accounted the shyest of all Birds, in Regard to her Nest, which she will forsake when building, if she perceives any Eyes upon it; and when there shall be Eggs, should you touch one; and if you touch her Young Ones, she will either starve, or destroy them by some Means.

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## THE ROBIN-RED-BREAST.

**T**HE *Robin-Red-Breast* takes its Name from its remarkable red Breast. It builds its Nest in Barns, Out-Houses, Banks, and Hedges, Tops of Houses and old Ruins, and sometimes in Woods; of very coarse Materials, as, dry green Moss mixed with coarse Wool, small dried Sticks, Straws, dried Leaves, Peeling from young Trees, and other dried Stuff, with a few Horse-hairs within; hardly one Inch deep, and about three Inches wide.

This Bird is six Inches long, including the Bill, a little more than half an Inch in length, and the Tail two Inches and a Half. She lays five or six, never less than four Eggs, of a Cream-Colour, sprinkled all over with fine reddish yellow Spots, so thick at the blunt End, as to appear almost all in one.

These Eggs are hatched about the End of *April*, and again in *May* and *June*. Do not let them pass above twelve Days old before you take them, because they will grow fullen. Keep them warm in a little Basket with Hay at the Bottom; feed them with the *Wood-Lark's* or *Nightingale's* Meat, taking care not to overcharge their Stomachs, which are very tender. When you cage them, let the Wires be somewhat closer than the *Nightingale's* Cage, with Moss at the Bottom, and in all respects keep and order them like the *Nightingale*.

When they are cramped, or giddy, to which *Robins* are very subject, give them a Meal-Worm or Spider now and then for the Cramp, and six or seven Earwigs a Week for the Giddiness. But if you would prevent these Disorders, the only Way is to keep them warm and clean, for nothing will  
bring

bring them sooner than Cold and a dirty Cage. If the Feet be clogged with Dung, their Nails; and even their Feet will rot off. If the Appetite falls off, give now and then six or seven Hog-Lice, which are found about rotten Wood. Never let there be a Want of fresh Water; in which, once a Week, put a Blade of Saffron, and a Slice of Stick Liquorice, which will chear his Spirits and strengthen his Song.

Old Ones and Branchers are taken and ordered, as the *Nightingale*.

The *Robin* naturally is a solitary Bird, and loves to feed singly upon Worms, and other Insects, Ants and their Eggs, &c. But when the Cold pinches them, and the Earth affords them none of this sort of Meat, it becomes bold, sociable and familiar with Men, will enter their Houses, and feed upon Crumbs of Bread and what else they can pick up.

The red on the Cock's Breast is deeper, and goes farther upon the Head than the Hen's; his Legs are also darker; there are generally a few Hairs on each Side of his Bill; the Upper-part of his Body is of a darker Olive; but the bright red of his Breast is the Distinction most to be depended on.

### THE SKY-LARK.

THE *Sky-Lark* is stout and lavish in Song, so as to be accounted too loud and harsh. It is also long lived and healthy, living fifteen or twenty Years, with proper Care; and singing all that Time, at least eight Months in the Year. He is so apt to take the Notes of all Birds, that he is a perfect Mocking-Bird; therefore to prevent his rambling

rambling in his Song, you must bring him up from the Nest under some fine *Song-Lark*.

This Bird puts up with very ordinary Conveniences for a Nest, which is made of a few Bents, or such like Materials deposited in a Hole or small Cleft of the Earth in a Corn-Field, in Pasture-Ground, or in Marshes and amongst Heath, &c. she lays four or five Earth-coloured Eggs, full of brownish Specks.

The Young Ones appear in the Beginning of *May*, sometimes a little sooner, and must be taken in eight or nine Days. If they have been disturbed, or it happens to prove drippy Weather, they will quit their Nests in seven Days: For the Feathers of all Birds grow quickest in wet Weather, which enables them to fly sooner. They breed three or four Times a Year, but the first are best.

Lay them on clean Hay in a little Basket, well covered and tied close, and feed them once in two Hours, in the Day Time, with white Bread and Milk boiled thick as a Poultrice, mixed with about a third Part of Rape-Seed soaked, boiled and well bruised; or with Sheep's-Heart or other fresh Meat, minced very fine, giving five or six Bits to each Bird, and keep them very clean.

In a Week's Time they will be fit for a Cage, which must be large, and not less than a Foot Square, and its Bottom covered with short Hay fresh every Day. Now their Food must be, a hard Egg grated or chopped very fine, an equal Quantity of Hemp-Seed bruised, and a little Bread grated amongst it. When they grow stronger and are able to crack the Seed, give it whole, with a few Crumbs of Bread amongst it, and treat them sometimes with a little of the fresh Meat: Instead of Hay sift fine dry Gravel on the Bottom of the Cage,



Cage, fresh every second Day ; and give them a Turf of three leaved-Grass twice a Week to perch upon.

After they have moulted, you need only give them Egg, Bread and whole Hemp-Seed, every other Day, and a fresh Turf once a Week. Should he droop, scour, or have loose Dung, grate a small Matter of old Cheese in his Meat, or give him three or four Wood-Lice a Day, or a Spider or two ; and tinge his Water with a Blade of Saffron, or a Slice of Stick Liquorice.

The Cock and Hen are so near alike in their Appearance, that it is difficult to assign any real distinguishing Marks : Neither the Copple-Crown, nor the long Heel, nor the two white Feathers in the Tail, can be depended upon for a Cock Bird. The most certain Distinction is to chuse the biggest and longest bodied Bird, which is always a Cock. But at about a Month old, it is easy to discover the Distinction of the Sex, by the Cock's recording his Notes low and inwardly, but very distinctly. In old Birds the lightest coloured Bird is always a Cock, browner on the Back, yellower on the Throat and Breast, and whiter on the Belly.

This Bird at full Growth is six Inches three Quarters long, including the Tail, which is three Inches, and the Bill three Quarters of an Inch.

*Sky-Larks* are caught by several Methods. When they have left their Nests only about three or four Days, they are called Pushers. These Birds hide themselves in Holes or under Turfs of Grass, and are fed by the Old Ones for some Time ; so that you must not only watch the old Birds going in to feed them, but you must watch them so as to give them no Suspicion of your Intention ; and having gained a certain Knowledge where the Young Ones lurk,

lurk, you must run immediately and take them by Surprise.

Treat these as you did the Nestlings; but if they prove sullen, and refuse Meat, cram them with a little Sheep's-Heart, &c. They will soon come to; and excel the Nestlings.

Those called *Branchers* are Birds of two or three Months old, and not moulted; and are taken after this Manner. In *June* or *July* take a Net of eleven or twelve Yards long, and three or four broad, with a Line through the Middle. One takes hold of one End of this Line; another holds a Hawk upon his Hand. Then coming as near as possible to the Place where the *Larks* lie, make the Hawk hover his Wings, which will cause them to lie very close to the Ground; and the Men taking hold of both Ends of the Line, still holding out the Hawk to fright the Birds, they may easily draw the Net over them.

Give them Bread, Egg and bruised Hemp-Seed, with red Sand in the Bottom of the Cage, and they will grow tame in two or three Days.

The *Sky-Lark* in Flight is taken, as other small Birds, with a Clap-Net. They are also taken several other Ways, as with a Larking-Glass: This Glass is about the Bigness and like unto the Shape of a Cucumber, hollow, with three, four, or five Holes cut round, and Pieces of Looking-Glass placed within. It is fixed by a Staff and runs out like a Whirligig, having a Line, on which it works backwards and forwards by the Help of a small Pin. This Engine, being played on a Sunshine Day, will entice the *Larks*, which will hover about the Glass to admire themselves, till you may surprize them all by drawing a Net over them, when come within your Reach.

In snowy Weather take a hundred or two Yards of Packthread, and at every six Inches fasten a Noose of double Horse-hair: Fasten this Thread with a Stick in the Ground, at every twenty Yards. At the Nooses scatter a few white Oats throughout the whole Length. The Noose will catch them by the Neck, Leg or Claw, and you must be quick to take them out of the Noose, lest their fluttering should frighten the others. The Birds taken this way, after *Christmas*, are scarce worth keeping.

But the Trammel-Net, used in dark Nights, is a most ruinous Engine to take all Birds. It is about thirty Yards long and six wide, run through with six Ribs of Packthead, which are placed at the Ends and put upon two Poles sixteen Feet long, made taper at each End, and is carried between two Men half a Yard from the Ground, which must be touched at every six or seven Steps to raise the Birds, and when they fly against the Net, let it fall, and they are caught.

### THE STARLING.

**T**HE *Starling* is not reckoned amongst Song-Birds for its natural Notes, but from its Aptness to learn to whistle and pipe either from Instruments or Birds. It is also capable of being taught to speak as well as most *Parrots*, and to crow like a Dunghill-Cock.

This Bird frequents Towers, old Ruins, Pidgeon-Houses, and other Out-houses, and Trees, in all which Places we find their Nests. She lays four or five Eggs, lightly tinged with a greenish blue, and are hatched about the Middle of *May*.



The Young Birds may be taken at ten Days old, but must be kept very clean and warm, and fed as directed for the *Blackbird*: Every Time you feed, or take them in Hand, talk, whistle or pipe to them, what you would have them learn; they will presently begin to repeat your Lesson, without flitting their Tongue, which is of no Service.

When able to feed themselves, put them in a large Wicker-Cage, with clean Straw or Moss at the Bottom, and sometimes a Pan of clean Water, big enough to wash themselves in it, in hot Weather, and feed them as the *Blackbird* or the *Wood-Lark*.

This Bird is naturally hardy and healthful, provided he be kept upon good Meat and Drink, and clean: But the Want of any of these Requisites will subject him to the Cramp, give him Fits, and bring other Disorders and Death upon him: When any of these Diseases seize him, his best Remedy is a Spider or a Meal-Worm, two or three Times a Week.

A Nestling Cock is known by a black Streak under his Tongue. After moulting, he is distinguished by the Beauty of his Colours, by a cast of green, red, purple, &c. on his Breast; a pale yellow Bill; the blue and purple Gloss on his black feathered Body; tipped with yellow on his Head and Neck, and with white on his Belly, &c. all which Spots and Colours are brighter than those of the Hen.

When full grown, this Bird is nine Inches long, including a Tail of three Inches, and a Bill one Inch and a Quarter.

## THE THRUSH OR THROSTLE.

**T**HE *Thrush*, commonly called the *Throistle* beyond *Trent*, and by others distinguished from other Birds of the *Thrush* kind, by the Name of the *Song-Thrush*, is a curious Bird, both for the great Variety of its Notes, and for singing nine Months in the Year.

This Bird builds in Woods and Orchards, and sometimes in a thick Hedge, near the Ground. Its Nest is compacted of fine soft green Moss, interwoven with dead Grass, Hay, &c. without; and curiously plaistered with Cow-dung only, within; measuring two Inches and a Half in Depth in the Hollow, and four Inches at the Top of the Inside, Diameter. She lays five or six Eggs of a bluish green, with small black Spots at the big End, upon the bare Plaister of Cow dung; which are generally hatched about the tenth of *April*.

The Young Ones are to be taken at about twelve Days old, or sooner in mild, open Weather. Keep them warm and clean, feed them every two Hours in the Day with a Mixture of raw Meat cut small, Bread a little moist, and bruised Hemp-Seed. Take their Dung away every Time they are fed, and in general keep them neat, clean and warm; so that if their Nest grows foul, remove them into a Basket of clean Straw; and when they are well feathered, put them into a large Cage with two or three Perches in it, and with dry Moss or Straw at the Bottom.

When grown up feed them with any kind of fresh Flesh Meat, raw, boiled or roasted, mixed with Bread; this agrees with them best; but they may be brought to live entirely on Bread and Hemp-Seed. They must have a Pan of fresh

Water twice a Week to wash themselves, or they will not thrive, and will have the Cramp : When this happens, put Fern or clean Straw at the Bottom of the Cage ; feed them with *Nightingale's* Meat as they lie, and turn up the Fern or Straw, when you feed them.

The Colour and Shape of the Cock and Hen are so alike, that it is difficult to discover the Sex by those external Marks : Only in this as well as in all other Birds, we must observe, that the Cock's Feathers excel the Hen's in Beauty, Sleekness, and Brightness ; but the surest Distinction is that fine Song, which the Cock sends forth from his Perch, especially after moulting.

The Length of a full grown Bird is nine Inches, including a Tail three Inches and a Half long, and a Bill one Inch : The Tail and Bill always lie out of the Nest, when the Hen sits.

If this Bird be taken ill, treat him as you do a *Blackbird*.

## THE TIT-LARK.

**T**HE *Tit-Lark* is handsome shaped, and excelled by few Birds for fine Feathers. It is not generally commendable for its singing, but where a Cock *Tit-lark* turns out a fine Song-Bird, he sings like a *Canary-Bird*, whisking, curring, chewing, &c. Besides, he is a hardy, long lived Bird, not subject to Colds nor Cramps, if well kept.

This Bird builds much after the Manner of the *Wood-Lark*, amongst Grass, or in Corn-fields. She lays five or six Eggs of a dark brown Colour, which bring Young Ones about the End of *May*.

These Nestlings are to be nursed with the same Meat and Management as young *Wood-Larks*. But the common Method of taking these Birds, is  
to



to catch them with Nets or Lime-Twigs, as we do *Linnets*, &c.

Then you must tie the End of their Wings with Thread, and cage them single in a Cage closer than the *Wood-Lark's*, and they soon grow tame. At first, feed them with Hemp-seed and Bread made very fine and mixed together; strew it about the Cage and mix it with Ant's Mould, Meal-Worms, &c. as for the *Sky-Lark*; by this Method they will come to their feeding, and sing in a Week's Time.

The Nestling Cock is not certainly known till it begins to record its Song; but when fully grown, it is more yellow, especially under the Throat, and on the Breast, Legs and Soles of the Feet, than the Hen's.

### THE TOM-TIT.

THE *Tom-Tit*, otherwise the *Joe-Bent*, frequents Farm-Yards and Orchards, is a very pleasing Bird, and has a pretty sort of a Song, and it is so easy to bring up, that they will thrive with Bread and Cheese, and, when grown up, with Hemp-Seed: But they like the *Wood-Lark's* Food the best. The Way to catch them is with a Lime-Twig.

### THE TWITE.

THE *Twite* is supposed to be a Native of Germany, and visits this Island in Winter. It is a very brisk and merry Bird, and is always singing. It is also a familiar and gentle natured Bird, and is hung amongst other Birds to provoke them to sing. Its Food is Rape and Canary, when caged, but it likes Canary best. They are caught as

*Linnets*, and the Cock is known by a red Spot upon his Rump.

## THE WOOD-LARK.

THE *Wood-Lark* is accounted the best Song-Bird in this Kingdom, being possessed of the most soft and delightful Notes, even to vie with the *Nightingale* in singing; with which the *Wood-Lark* will strive both in the Cage and in the Field for Mastery. It sings nine Months in the Year.

It is a Bird very beautiful in Shape and Feathers, being a little less and shorter than the *Sky-Lark*; and the Feathers are of a pale yellow Hair-colour, faintly spotted with black upon the Breast and Belly, black and a reddish yellow mixed together on the Back and Head, with a white Line encircling the Head, like a Crown, from Eye to Eye.

Though this is a very tender Bird, it breeds as soon as the *Blackbird*. It builds at the Foot of a Bush or Hedge, or under some dry Turf, making its Nest out of withered Grass, fibrous Roots, and such coarse Materials, with only a few Horse-hairs at the Bottom within, having scarce any Hollow or Sides, and the Bottom almost upon a Level with the Top; and laying four pale bloom coloured Eggs, beautifully mottled and clouded with red, yellow, &c.

The Young Ones are ready to fly about the Middle of *March*, and must not be taken till they be well feathered, because they are subject to the Cramp, and a Scouring if taken sooner, which commonly proves mortal. Put them in a Basket upon Hay, and tie them down close, so that they may be kept clean and warm. Feed them with a Mixture of Sheep's-Heart, or other clean, raw, Flesh

Flesh Meat, boiled hard Egg, Hemp-Seed bruised or grated, and a little Bread, well chopped together, and moistened with clean Water: Give them five or six small Bits every two Hours, so that Care be taken not to load their Stomachs, and that their Meat be always sweet. But the best Way to take them is not out of the Nest, they being so tender and difficult to rear, for they die either with Cramp, Scouring, or moulting, but when they have fled two or three Months.

The Cock is best known by its Size and Song, for it is the biggest and largest bodied Bird, and the Strength of his Song always puts the Sex out of all Doubt.

Branchers of this Kind, are the Birds hatched in the Spring, and are taken in *June* or *July*, in the Manner of *Sky-Larks*, by a Net and a *Hawk*. They frequent Gravel-pits, Heath and common Land, and Pasture-fields. These Birds soon take to the Cage.

About *Michaelmas* another Flight of them appear, which are accounted better Birds for Use, for they being kept well all the Winter, will gratify their Benefactor with a nine Months Song. These are caught with Clap-Nets, and a Call-Bird, and a Brace-Bird, on high Ground, and in a Cart-way, or on a Spot of Earth fresh turned up.

In *January* there may be another taking of *Wood-Larks*, near a Wood-side, in Pasture-ground, facing the rising Sun. These are both stouter and louder than those taken in *September*, will sing in a few Days after they are taken, but do not continue their Song so many Months. They are also taken with the Clap-Net, and a Call-Bird, and a Brace-Bird.

After this Season there should be none taken, because these Birds presently go to Nest, and couple ;



ple; so that tho' the Cock, which has coupled with his Hen and is taken, may sing as soon as he is caged, on account of his Rankness, his Song will soon fall off.

All the *Wood-Larks* taken at different Seasons, must be fed with Meat made of Hemp-Seed, ground very fine, mixed with a double Quantity of Bread. Put red Gravel at the Bottom of the Cage, upon which throw this Meat, well mixed; it being more natural for them to seek their Food in the Gravel than in the Trough, but do not let the Trough be empty; and when you perceive the Bird to pick out of the Trough, you need not throw any more Meat amongst the Gravel.

When they are come to their Meat, then give them a Mixture of hard Egg, well grated or chopped, a sufficient Quantity of Bread crumbled, and a little Hemp-Seed and Maw-Seed. *N. B.* One Egg is enough for six *Larks*. They may sometimes be fed with minced Meat, &c. as other Birds.

Give this Bird no Turf or Grass, but in all other Cases, order him as the *Sky-Lark*. Put fine red Gravel often in his Cage, and if it droops, strew some Mould full of Ants at the Bottom of the Cage, or give him two or three Meal-Worms, or Hog-Lice, in a Day, with a little Saffron or Liquorice sometimes in his Water. Grated Chalk or Cheese amongst his Meat or Gravel, will help a Looseness.

## THE WREN.

**T**HE *Wren* is the smallest of Song-Birds, (four Inches and a Half including Bill and Tail) but has a very loud and fine Song. She builds her Nest in the Form of a Sugar-Loaf, without of Moss, within of Hair, Wool, or Feathers, with a Hole

a Hole in the Middle of the Side, for a Passage into it; commonly in Woods and Hedges, and sometimes about the Walls of Houses.

She lays fifteen or sixteen small white Eggs, sprinkled with small pale red Spots. But she does not hatch above half that Number, which must be well feathered before you take them.

Feed them as young *Nightingales*, giving them often one or two small Bits at a Time. When fit for a Cage, let it be large, with very close Wires, and on one Side in the Form of a Squirrel-House, lined with Rabbit-Skin, or something warm. Keep them constantly on *Nightingale's* Food, clean and warm. When sick, give them two or three Flies, or a small Spider or two, but be very sparing of Insects.

The Cock has a dark brown Back and Head, a whitish Breast and Belly, and Tail and Wings variegated with a bright yellow and blackish Lines: The Hen is all over reddish, except the black and reddish Lines across her Tail and Wings. It is not easy to distinguish the Sex when young; but the Bird with the largest Eye is generally the Cock. It commonly creeps about Hedges and Pits; mostly frequents Farm-yards, and perches upon a Barn or Tree; takes short Flights, and may be easily tired and run down.

*The END of the FIRST PART.*

1871  
The first of the year  
was a very dry one  
and the crops were  
very poor.

The second of the year  
was a very wet one  
and the crops were  
very good.

The third of the year  
was a very dry one  
and the crops were  
very poor.

The fourth of the year  
was a very wet one  
and the crops were  
very good.

The fifth of the year  
was a very dry one  
and the crops were  
very poor.

The sixth of the year  
was a very wet one  
and the crops were  
very good.

The seventh of the year  
was a very dry one  
and the crops were  
very poor.

The eighth of the year  
was a very wet one  
and the crops were  
very good.

The ninth of the year  
was a very dry one  
and the crops were  
very poor.

The tenth of the year  
was a very wet one  
and the crops were  
very good.

The eleventh of the year  
was a very dry one  
and the crops were  
very poor.

The twelfth of the year  
was a very wet one  
and the crops were  
very good.

The thirteenth of the year  
was a very dry one  
and the crops were  
very poor.

The fourteenth of the year  
was a very wet one  
and the crops were  
very good.

The fifteenth of the year  
was a very dry one  
and the crops were  
very poor.



THE  
BIRD FANCIER'S  
NECESSARY COMPANION,  
AND  
SURE GUIDE.

---

IN TWO PARTS.

---

PART II.  
CONTAINING AN  
EASY WAY  
OF BREEDING  
CANARY BIRDS.  
AND THE  
BEST METHOD  
OF  
CHUSING AND KEEPING THEM,  
BOTH FOR  
BREEDING AND SONG.

---

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THE  
BIRD FANCY  
NECESSARY COMPANION  
AND  
SURE GUIDE

---

IN TWO PARTS

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PART II  
CONTAINING AN  
EASY WAY  
OF READING  
CAMBARY BIRDS

AND THE  
BEST METHOD  
OF CHUISING AND KEEPING THEM  
FORTH FOR  
REPAIRING AND SONG

---

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# The Several Sorts of CANARY BIRDS Described.



**N**ear the Western Coast of *Africa*, are 7 Little Islands, subject to the King of *Spain*, called the *Canary Islands*, and Inhabited by the *Spaniards*:

And all of them produce that Luscious Wine, called by them, *Sack*, but by Us, *Canary*, from the Name of the Place.

In these Islands, are Certain Little Singing Birds, called therefore *Canary Birds*, (they Breeding Wild There) But of late Years, great Numbers of these Birds have been Carried from thence, into *Germany*, and Bred There. — From Whence, It is Now even become a Trade, for Certain *Germans* Every Year, to Bring of these Birds Over, into *England*.

These Birds are of Several Colours, from their Different Shades of Colours, in their Coupling.

And of these Several Colours, the *Spangled* Sort, with Black, and Brown Spots, and Streaks on their Backs, and Wings, Intermixed with a Cast of a Beautiful Bright Yellow, as if drawn with a Pencil,

With No White at all about them, and with Black, or Dark Brown Feathers in their Tails, and a Spot on their Heads, called by Fanciers, *A Cap*,

Are Now the most Esteemed, according to the Present Reigning Fancy amongst Breeders, Quite All White Tail'd Birds, being Valued the Least.



And which Fine Spangled Sort, interspersed with a Bright Yellow, the *French* call *Jonquilles*,

From the *French* Word *Jonquille*, which is the Name of a very Beautiful Flower, most Finely Streaked with those Black, and Yellow Colours.

And therefore, Streak'd Birds inclining to those Colours, are called *Jonques*, or of the *French* Strain:

From a Breed, which a few Years ago was brought hither from *France*, but Since, much Improved in Colour, & Beauty, by *English* Breeders.

As to the Article of a *White Tail*, Or a *Cap* on the Head of a Bird, it is Nothing but mere Fancy amongst the Present Breeders, at *This Time* :

And for no other Reason, than because *Canary Birds* have so Generally *All White Tails*, and are without that Spot on their Heads, called *A Cap*.

That, [Except quite Dark Brown Birds, called the *Grey Canary Birds*, whose Tails are always of their own Colour] For *One Bird* that has a Blackish, or dark Brown Tail, or has any *Cap* on it's Head, <sup>20</sup> have *White Tails*, and No *Cap* at all.

Therefore, For the meer Uncommonness only of the Thing it is, that the *Black Tails*, and *Cap'd Birds*, are most Esteemed.—Whereas,

If *Canary Birds* had as Generally *Black Tails*, and *Caps* on their Heads, as they have *White Tails*, and are without *Caps*, Then, a *White Tail Bird*, and without any *Cap* at all, would be most Esteemed :

So that this is nothing but meer Fancy, because Birds with *White Tails*, & no *Caps*, are so Common :

The Colour of the Tail, Or *Cap*, or No *Cap* on the Head, Adding Nothing at all to the Goodness of the Bird, Either for Breeding, or Singing.

This Beautiful Fine Sort of Spangled Feather, the *French* first struck into, by Pairing Proper Coloured Cocks, with Hens, in Breeding. And

Therefore

Therefore such Spangled Birds are now generally Called by the Name of *French Canary Birds*,

Meaning thereby, that they are of the *French* Strain, notwithstanding their being Bred in *England*.

And when such Cocks are Paired with very Pale Coloured, or Whiteish Hens, they produce that Pale Greyish Coloured Sort, called *Mealy Birds*,

From the Mealy Kind of Colour, which seems to Cover all their Feathers, so that they have no other Colours perfect, being covered with that *Mealy* Cast.

Those Birds which the *Germans* mostly bring Over, are what are called *Mottled Canary Birds*,

From their being White Birds, with a Certain Shady Intermixture of something of a Grey.

Of these also, Some are *All White*, and those are are the Hens, Some all Yellow, which are Cocks, Some the Colour of Buff, & some of an Ash Colour.

Amongst these Whiteish *Mottled* Sort of *Birds*,

Some have Red Eyes, & the Cocks of this Sort, Sing as well as Others, but the Hens are good for Nothing at all, being always Dim Sighted, and cannot See to Feed their Young Ones, (if Ever they should have Any) and so Starve the Whole Nest.

The *Germans* bring Over also, a Few very Darkish Brown Birds, Called the *Grey Canary Birds*,

They are the Least Esteem'd of any, because of their mighty Plain Feather, being the Colour of a Common *Sparrow*, & therefore, are the Cheapest of all :

But yet are Generally as Good in their Nature, as Any, both for Singing, and Breeding.

Some *Canary Birds*, are Longer from Head, to Tail, are Taller, & have Blacker Legs, than Others,

Of These, The Best Sort, whither for Singing, or Breeding, are the *Tallest*, and of Near a Span Long, from the Bill, to the End of the Tail:

And If the Legs are of a Blackish Cast, 'tis a Mark of Strength in a Bird, Cock, or Hen.

*How*

*How Certainly to Know, and Buy a Cock  
Canary Bird, and not be Deceived, and  
Put off with a Hen, instead of a Cock.*

*And also, Out of a 100 Cock Canary Birds,  
Promiscuously in a Room All together, Present-  
ly to Know which Single Bird in Particular,  
is entirely the very BEST of them All.*

**O**F the *Mottled Birds*, which the *Ger-*  
*mans* Bring over, the Cocks are Easily  
Known at First Sight, from the Hens,

The Cocks being always of a Lively Yellowish  
Colour, Whereas, The Hens are of a Dusty White.

Also, The Breast, Belly, and Head in the *Grey  
Canary Birds*, are more Yellow in the *Cocks*, than  
in the *Hens*, which are *All* of a Pale Greenish  
Colour, without any thing of Yellow, at all.

But, The Spangled, & *Mealy Birds*, Differ Com-  
monly, but Little in Colour, in *Cocks*, and *Hens*,

Except, that by a Nice Observation, the Co-  
lours in the *Cocks*, Appear still something more  
Brisk, and Lively in their Kind, than in the *Hens*.

So that the *Cocks* of these Colours, Can (to be  
Certain) only be Known by their Singing,

For *Hen Canary Birds* Never Sing at all. — And

Therefore, Whenever you Buy a *Canary Bird*,

If you Buy the Bird out of a Great Many  
together, as Out of Any Bird Seller's Store-Cage,

Let the Bird be Put into a Single Cage by him-  
self, and *There* Hear him Sing, By which, You are  
Sure not to be Deceiv'd with a *Hen*, instead of a *Cock*.

And to be SURE of a *Stout Singing Cock*, do Thus,

Go a little Before Roosting Time, and Stay a  
While in the Room, Where all the Birds Hang:

And You'll Hear by Degrees, the Birds Leave off  
Singing, to Go to Roost. Now, *Those Birds* which  
Sing Last, after all the Rest have done Singing,  
are Quite the Very BEST Singing Birds of all.

Or



Or else, You may go After Sun-Set, when 'tis Dark, and set up a Candle, or 2, in the Room where the Birds are :—Upon which, Some One, or Other of them, will Commonly fall a Singing:

And Never doubt, but *Those* are the *Best* Birds.

But, If after Setting up a Candle, or 2, No Bird Sings, then make a little Tinkling Noise with a Pewter Plate, between a Pair of Tongs,

And Ten to One, but Some One Bird, or Other, will Answer you with a Song. Besure Buy **THAT** Bird out of Hand, 'Tis a Choice Good One:

Now, The Time of the Year, to Chuse Birds in this Manner, is before *Candlemas*, when the Days are Short, For, When the Days are so Long, that the Birds are Tired out with Singing *All Day*,

Altho' you do Set up Candles, Yet they being Weary of Singing in the Day Time, will not so very Easily Fall a Singing, by Night :

But, If any One does *Then* fall a Singing by Candle Light, After having Sung a Whole Long Day Before, Never then doubt but that He is an *Extraordinary Good Bird*, And therefore,

Besure Buy him, Without any more Ado.

Buy Always both for Singing, or Breeding, the *Tallest, & Longest Bird* from his Head, to the End of his Tail, and with the *Longest Tail*, you Can Get.

And, altho' the very **LARGEST Cock**, and *Hen* you can Get, are always the *Best* Birds, for Breeding,

Yet, If you Buy a Bird for Singing only, a Smaller Sized Bird, may fully answer your End as well :

It being a Saying amongst the *Bird Fanciers*, (of which Experience must Shew the Truth) that

The *Less* a *Cock Canary Bird* is, the more Prone He is to Sing, According to that of the Poet *Claudian*,

*Major in Exiguo Regnabat Corpore, Virtus.*

*How*

*How Certainly to Know, and Buy a Sound  
Healthy Canary Bird, and not be Deceived,  
and Put off with a Sick Unhealthy One.*

**W**Henever you Go Any where to Buy  
a *Canary Bird*, altho' the Bird-Man  
should Reach you down a *Sick Bird*,

Who, but just before, had his Head under his Wing,

Yet, When he Surprises the Bird by Reaching  
him Down to you, and Holds the Cage in his  
Hand Close to you, to shew you the Bird,

'Tis Natural for the Bird *Then At That Time*,  
out of a Sudden Surprise, to Rouse himself, to  
Stand Strait Up, and to Shew himself Pert :

And consequently, to Appear as if Perfectly  
Well in Health, during the Time of his being  
thus Surprised, while you stand too near his Cage.

Also, By their Pointing too Near the Bird, Pre-  
tending to shew you the Beauty of him, the Bird will  
of a Sudden Stand Strait, Draw up his Feathers, & so  
Appear as if Well, & by that Means Deceive you.

So that by this Craft it is, of the Person who  
would Sell a *Sick Bird*, that Buyers are Deceived.

For, This is the usual Deceitful, and Crafty Way  
of Putting off a *Sick*, or Unhealthy Bird, by Bird-  
Men, and a *Cunning Sly* Way it is.—Therefore,

Look Well at the Bird, *Before* he is Reached  
Down, or any Ways Stirred. And if he should  
be Reached Down, before you are Aware,

Let him be set Down at a Distance off from you,  
and Let him Stand *There* some Little Time, And  
*There* Observe how he Sits, and Behaves himself.

If he Stands Up Bold, and Strait, without  
Loosening, or Ruffling his Feathers, or Crouching  
down, or Hanging his Wings, Appearing, as it were  
*All of a Heap*, and *Rough* in his Feathers,

But that his Feathers Lie all Sleek, Smooth, and  
CLOSE to his Body, with his Eyes Full, Chearful,  
& not Drowsy, *These* are Signs of a Healthy Bird.

But

But, If you see him Clap his Head under his Wing, Or if his Feathers sit so Rough, and Loose about him as to make him Bulky, and, as it were, *All of a Heap*, have Nothing at all to do with him, He is not Sound.—But, As Sure a Way as Any,

To Know When a *Canary Bird* is in Health, is to Observe his Dung, Which you must do, Thus :

Take him out of the Store Cage, and Put him by himself into a Single Cage, that has a *Clean Draw Board*, without any Dung at all on it :

And *There* See How He Sits, and Behaves himself on his *Pearch*, and above all, You will *There* See his Dung *Apart* by itself, which you could not do, when he was in the Cage, among Other Birds.

Therefore, When he Dungs, View it well, And If the Bird is in perfect Health, his Dung will Lie Round, and Hard, with a White on the Outside of it, Dark within, and Quickly grows Dry.

Whereas, A Thin, Loose, Slimy, and Whiteish Watery Dung, without any Thickening, or Black in it, are sure Marks of a *Sick, Unhealthy Bird*.

Also, Take Notice of the Manner of his Dinging, For, If he Bolts, and Jerks up his Tail, presently after he has Dung'd, it is a Sign He is not in Health, altho' He may Sing for the Present.

Chuse then a Bird that Stands Bold, and Strait Upright upon his *Pearch*, not Crouching, or Hanging his Feathers, or Wings, But that looks Sprightly, and full of Life, and Vigour,

Not subject to be Frighted, but that is Familiar, And will Look Freely at *You*, and will let *You* Look at him, without Fluttering, or Beating himself.

Such a Bird is a Good, Sound, Healthy, and Valuable Bird, And you may Safely Buy him.

**I**F these Foregoing Rules are but Observed, No One need ever be Deceived in a *Canary Bird*, by even the *Cunningest Bird Man*, of them *All*.

*How*



*How to Keep, and Order a Single Cock  
Canary Bird in a Cage, for Singing Only.*

*And How (Safely) to Handle a Canary Bird,  
For, There is but ONE Only Right Way.*

**W**HEN you have Got a *Cock Canary Bird* to your Liking, As Good a Cage to Keep him in, as Any, is a Common 18d. Tower Cage, to be Had at any Cage-Maker's.

Put him in, and Strew some Gravel on the Draw Board, Give him Rape, and *Canary* Seeds,

Half One, Half the Other, is the Common Mixture, With Water, and Hang him Up : And, He will Sing all the Year, except when in the Moults.

Don't Hang him in any Private, Lonesome Room, Alone by himself, For, He is a Bird that Loves Company, not only of his Own Kind, but even of Men.

And therefore, Will Sing much *More*, in any Publick Shop, or Frequented Room, where Company constantly Comes, and makes a Noise, than if Moaped up in a Room Alone, by himself.

And the *More* you Make a Noise, or Talk to him, the *More* he will Sing, Striving, as it were, to Outdo you, by making a Greater Noise.

But, You must not Hang him in any *Cold* Place, Nor in any *Thorough Air*, He being a Tenderish Bird (tho' with Care, will Live Many Years)

That is Nourished by Warmth, Whereas, *Cold* will Cause his Belly to Swell, which will Kill him.

And 2 Cocks in a Room, at a Distance from Each Other, will Sing much *More*, than *One* Alone by himself :—Because, By Trying to Out-Sing One Another, they Provoke Each Other to Sing the *More*.

A *Canary Bird* should not be kept in the Dark, Because, When you bring their Cage to the Light, to Clean it, They will be Apt to Flutter, and Beat themselves against the Cage, as all Birds naturally do, brought out of any Dark Place, into the Light.

Before

Before Clean his Cage, and give him Fresh Gravel, Meat, and Water, at least Twice a Week,

For Nothing hinders his Thriving, and causes Diseases *More*, than his not being kept Clean.

Because, Nothing Offends him so much, as the *Stink*, *Froustyness*, and Strong Smell of his own Dung, or Stale Water, and Meat.—And also,

If his Cage is not often Cleaned, He will be Apt to Clog his Tail, and Feet, which will Rot his Toes, Breed the Cramp, and Spoil Your Bird,

And therefore, Never let your Bird go with his Feet Clogged up with Gravel, and Dirt.

But, If at any Time, You perceive his Feet, or Tail to be Ditty, and Clogg'd, You must Clean them, and Set the Bird at Liberty, Thus,

Take the Bird Gently, but yet a little Boldly, in your Hand, For, by a *Fear* of Taking Hold of him, lest you should hurt him, You will be so *Long* in Catching him, that he will Flutter, and Beat himself too Long about the Cage, before you can well Take Hold of him.

Having got him in your Hand, don't Squeeze his Body, but the *Only Right Way* to Hold him in your Hand, is with your Thumb Gently Cross his Neck,

By which Means, thus hindering his Neck to Stir, you may hold his Body the Gentler, & yet the Surer.

For, As Long as you have your Thumb but Over his Neck, and have him but Secure *There*, He cannot by any Means, Get Away from you.

Having the Bird thus Gently Secure in your Hand, You must not Pull off the Clotted Substance *Dry*, lest you Tear the Tender Skin of his Toes, or Pull the Feathers out of his Tail,

But, You must Moisten by Degrees, the Hard Clotted Substance with a Little Spittle, between your Finger, & Thumb, to Soften it First, and then Gently by Degrees, to Break it, & so Take it off.

For, Nothing hinders his Thriving *More*, than Dirt, and Nastyness, and a Dirty Clog'd Tail, and Feet, which Breeds the Cramp, and makes a Bird not to Thrive, nor Delight in himself.

And always Observe, that a Clog'd Footed Bird, is Seldome perfectly Well, nor a Sickly Bird, is Seldome without Clog'd Feet, and a Nasty Tail,

So that *Dirt*, and *Sickness*, Go so Generally both together in a Bird, That, A *Sickly Bird* is Seldom Clean, and a *Dirty Bird* is as Seldome *Well*.

Therefore, Besure keep his Draw Board, and Perches CLEAN, that he may not Clog himself.

Don't let him be without Gravel, for all *Canary Birds* love to Peck, and Scratch amongst it for Little Gritty Stones, which helps them to Grind, and Digest their Meat, & Scoures, and Cleanses their Bodies, and therefore is Wholesome for them.

Thus, Give your Bird but fresh *Gravel*, *Seed*, & *Water*, Twice a Week, & you have no more Trouble with him, being of the *Hard Bill'd* Kind of Birds.

Whereas, *Soft Beak'd* Birds, such as all the Kinds of Larks, Robins, Nightingales, &c. must have Soft Meat, and *That* Fresh, and Fresh Every Day, or else it will be Sour, and Stale, & so Kill the Birds.

Besides, The Constant Trouble in making it, Renders them so Troublesome to their Keeper,

To say nothing of the Frequent Fresh Turfs, for Sky-Larks, which they Absolutely Require,

That in the Whole, They fall far Short of Recom-  
pensing their Keeper's Attendance, and Trouble.

Whereas, Give but Gravel, Seed, and Water to a *Canary Bird*, and you have *Done with him*.

And, He will Sing *All the Year*, except about *September*, when in the Molt, Whereas, Other Birds Sing only at Certain Seasons, which falls Short of Recom-  
pensing their Constant Trouble, in Keeping.

The



The Best thing for Water, and their Meat, is Any Thing of Glass, which you must keep Very Clean, by often Rincing, and Scowering it.

Leaden Pots are Apt to Fur, and so Corrupt the Water, and all Tin Pots are Apt to Fur, & Rust which is Offensive to him : And, Any Thing of Pewter, is Wholesomer, and Cleanlier, than Lead.

Now, and then, Give him a little Maw Seed, to Cherish, Comfort, and Please him, for *Canary Birds* Love it far better, than Any Other Seed.

*Maw Seed* is a very Little Small Purple Coloured Seed, no Bigger than Mustard Seed,

You may Buy a Pennyworth of it, at any Time, Where you Buy your Other Seeds.

It is generally Sold from 14, or 15d. a Pound, to 20d. or thereabouts, as the Seed Market Goes.

Put sometimes a Bit of Loaf Sugar, as also a little Bit of Chalk, between the Wires of the Cage,

'Tis Good, and Wholsome for him to Peck at, and frequently to Whet, and Rub his Bill against.

And in Warmish Weather, Give him a Little Seedy *Chick Weed*, or *Groundsil*, Or the Fine Leaf of a Young *Radish*, Or a Fine Leaf of the Heart of a Cabbage, Goss, or Silesia *Lettice*, Or *Endive*,

Or Ripe *Seedy Plantan*, which towards *July*, & *August*, grows in almost Every Meadow, & Field.

Any of these Greens, are mighty Wholsome for him, and will keep him in Health, and all *Canary Birds* Love such Greens extremely Well.

In Hot Weather, Never Fail (Let any one Put it in your Head of his Catching Cold, never so much) to put him a little Dish of Water in his Cage, for him to Wash, and Refresh himself in.

It Cannot do him any Harm, Whenever He is inclined to Wash Himself in it, in *Warm Weather*.

It is the very Best Thing you can do, to Refresh, Cool, and Keep him in Health :—For,

You may be Assured, that Whenever he Sees Water, & has a Mind to Wash, it will Never do him Harm.

Therefore, Whoever Tells you to the Contrary, (out of a Notion of his Catching Cold) Don't Fear it,

For, No Bird would ever Wash himself, if it did not Agree with him, and do him Good, And there is No Bird of a *Hotter* Nature, than a *Canary Bird*.

He will Soon by Picking, and Drawing his Feathers, to Clean them, Dry himself again, and will do much Better, than if he had not Washed at all.

And Whilst he Washes himself, and Afterwards, To Dry him, Set his Cage, if you Can, *in the Sun*, & He will Thrive as much by *This*, as by his Food.

But Never let a *Hot Sun* Lie Long upon him.

If any of your Bird's Tail Feathers are Ragged, or Stumpy, so as to have an Ugly Tail, a very Long Handsome Tail, being the Beauty of a *Canary Bird*,

You must Pull them Gently out, One by One, and they will Soon Come again Beautiful.

Whereas, If you Cut the Raggedness off with a Pair of Scizars, they'll Remain SO, till He Molts.

If his Claws grow Inconveniently too Long, Clip the Ends of them off with a Pair of Scizars, to give him better Liberty, to Hop About.

**A**ND any of *That Change* of Food, and Greens, (for they Love a Diversity of Diet) Ordered Hereafter for Birds that are Breeding, Such as a Bit of *Hard Egg*, White, and Yolk together,

When you have it Otherwise in your *Salad*, without Getting it on Purpose, *Naples Bisket*, *Chickweed*, or *Groundfil*, When you Walk Out in the Fields,

May be Given also to a *Single Cock* in a Cage: It will Hearten him to Sing the Better.

*Which*

*Which Sort of Canary Birds, are the Best to Breed With.*

**T**HE Fine *Spangled Sort* Above-mentioned, commonly called, *French Canary Birds*, and the *Mealy Ones*, are the BEST to Breed with, for *Those*, who are very Curious.

Because, A *Spangled Cock*, with a *Mealy Hen*, will Produce a more *Regular Spangled Feather*, than if Cock, and Hen were *Both Spangled*. For *Then*, They would Breed too *High* upon the *Yellow*.

And Pair such a *Spangled Cock*, with a *Mealy Hen*, in a Cage by Themselves, as Hereafter in Page 29. Rather than a *Mealy Cock*, with a *Spangled Hen*,

Because, The Young Ones *Take* mostly after the *Cock Bird* in their Feathers, Rather than the *Hen*.

But, *Those* who have Only *Grey Birds*, They will Breed Full as Well, as *Any*, for the *Breeding Part*,

For *Those*, who Care not *What Coloured Birds* they Breed, so they *Have* but *Young Ones*.

They being the *Best of Nurses*, But, then they must Expect None but *All Grey Young Ones*.

And of which, The *All Grey*, and *Mealy Sort*, very Rarely Fail of having *Large, & Plentyfull Broods*.

Because *Mealy*, and *Grey Birds*, Make Kind Nests, are Admirable Good Layers, Close Sitters, Careful Feeders, & consequently in the Whole, the *Best Nurses*.

The *White Birds* are Quite the *Worst*, to Breed with, of *Any*, they being very Rarely *Good Nurses*.

And therefore, Let the Birds you Breed with, be *English Bred Birds*, and not from the *Germans*, Their Birds Agreeing but *Indifferently* with *Our Climate*, to Breed in :—And this is the Reason, That

*Those* who Breed with *German Mottle*, or *White Birds*, have Commonly so very Little Success.

And *This* it is, that Disheartens so Many Young Breeders, who begin with *German Birds*, from Trying to Breed any More : Whereas, If they had but had *English Bred Birds*, their *Plentyfull Broods*, would have given them Courage, to Go on, & Breed Again.

What



*What Sort of a Place for Breeding Canary Birds, will Make them to have a Great Many More Young Ones, than the Common Breeding Places have. — And, How, Easily to Fit such a Pretty Place Up.*

**I**F you Breed with only One Single Pair of Birds, in a Cage, as Good A Cage as Any, is One of the Common Pretty Breeding Cages, of near 2 Foot Square, with Breeding Boxes in it, and may be Had, At all Cage Maker's, for about 8, or 9s.

And if Made but Neatly, is so very Pretty a Cage, as to be an Ornament to any Room.

Into which Cage, Put *One Cock*, and *One Hen*:

For those who out of Covetousness, Put Two *Hens*, to One *Cock*, even tho' the Cage was Larger, find by Experience, that it Comes to Nothing.

But, If you have *Several* Pairs of Birds, Then, The *LEAST* Trouble by Far, is to Breed *Flying*.

Because, *ONE Feeding*, and *Serving*, Serves *ALL*

And Then, Set Apart some Little *Warm Room*, or Large Closet, Facing, if possible you Can, the *Morning Sun*, with a Net before the Window, That

If by Accident, any Glass should be Broke, the Birds may not Get Out: — And also, That

The Window may be Opened, to give them Air in *Hot* Weather, without their Getting Away.

Fix up but only a *Very FEW* Perches, that they may have a Larger Flight, to Exercise their Bodies, and Wings, which will keep them in Health.

And Place the Perches as SO, not to Dung upon One Another, but Directly down upon the Gravel.

This being Done, Set a Little Table in the Room to Put Water, Meat, and Greens on: And on the Table, and Floor, You must always Strew some Gravel.

Those who have the Conveniency of a Little Closet in Any Room Below Stairs, where they are mostly in, have much more Pleasure,

And

And far Less Trouble, than Those, who keep their Birds Up *Pokeing in a Garret*, Whither they must Harrafs, & Horfe Up & Down to their Birds, Whenever they Want to See, and Hear them.

And so, Have no Manner of Pleasure in Seeing them all Day Long, which makes it scarce Worth having them, it making a Perfect *Toil of a Pleasure*.

For *Thus*, You will Always have your Birds Below Stairs, at Hand, And, You will be at no Other Trouble, than giving them their Meat,

And by their being thus *At Hand*, They will not be in such Danger of being Neglected, and of not being kept Sweet, and Clean, from any *Frousty, Nasty Smell*, as they would be, if kept Hobling Up, *Pokeing in some Nasty, Frousty Garret*.

And, 'Tis *This* being so Far from them, that is the Occasion of most Breeding Places being kept so very *Nasty* as they are, so that they *Stink* almost like a Pidgeon House, or Rabbet Hutches.

Whereas, If they were but *Nearer At Hand*, and not Up *Poking in a Garret*, they would very Probably be much *Oftener Cleaned*, and your Young Ones Would Thrive as Well again, and Consequently,

You would Rear a Great Many *More Young Ones*, than the Common *Frousty Breeding Places* do.

For, Such a *Nasty Room* infects the very Air of the Place, which is as Prejudicial to their Young Bodies, as an Infected Air is to a Human Body.

After this, You must to 3, or 4 Pairs of Birds, Hang up 6, or 7. Breeding Boxes, — Because,

A *Hen* will Want to go to Nest, before her Young Ones have Left the Old Nest You may have such Breeding Nest Boxes, At *All* Cage-maker's Shops.

Having Put up your Breeding Boxes, Next, Get a Quarter of a Pound of Elk's Hair,

Which (it being very Light) will Last Several Pairs of *Canary Birds*, a Long While.

'Tis

'Tis the Proper Thing for them, and in *Germany*, all their Birds make their Nests of it.

An *Elk* is a Creature in *Germany*, Like to, but Larger than Our Deer, With whose Hair, Sadler's Stuff their Saddles, because it will not Clod, & therefore, you may have it at most Sadler's, — But,

You'll be Sure not to Fail of it, amongst the Great Sadler's, on the *Paved Stones*, in *West-Smithfield* in *London*. 'Tis about 3s. a Pound.

Before have *Fresh Elk's Hair*, that has not been Stuff'd in any Saddles, which is Stale, and Musty.

Or, If you have No *Elk's Hair*, Get at Any Sadler's, 2, or 3 Pennyworth of *Doe's Hair*,

Or of some Plaisterer, a little Clean *Neats Hair*, such as they Mix Along with their Mortar.

But, You must Wash well the *Doe's*, and *Neat's Hair* (the *Elk's Hair* needs no Washing) to Wash Clean Out the Lime, that was Used to get those Hairs out of the Hide, and which, without it is Washed Clean out, will Prejudice your Birds.

Then, Dry very *Well* these Hairs, — And

If you Mix a Little *Elk's Hair*, Clean *Doe's*, and *Neat's Hair All Together*, and Hang Some of that Mixture Up in a Corner of the Room, in a Little Net (like a Cabbage Net, but a great Deal less, and will Cost about *Two Pence*, at any Net Shop).

You will be Surprised to See, How the Little Birds will Pick it Out, Hair, by Hair, and what *Charming Pretty Nests*, they will Make of it.

Before keep your Place *Neat*, and *Clean*, Nothing Offending the Birds more, than their Own Dung.

And indeed, 'Tis very Unpleasant, to See a Great Many Breeding Places about Town, to be in such a *very Nasty Condition*, as they are, When a little Pains would keep them Clean, & Wholsome, & then they would not Loose so Many Young Ones, as they do.

Besides, *Cleanlyneß*, is Half the Beauty of the Place.

At



At One's first Coming into such Common Breeding Rooms, they Smell so very *Strong*, & *Frousty*, that they *Stink* almost as Bad, as a *Pidgeon House*:

The Dung Lies *Stinking*, Near a Quarter of an Inch Thick on the Bins, and Breeding Boxes, Which is as Little Pleasant to the Birds themselves, as it is to the Person, Who Comes to See them.

And indeed, This *Nasty*, *Frousty* Smell, does so Affect the Place, that Numbers of Young *Canary Birds* Die thereby, & the Owners do not Dream of it.

Keep therefore your Place *Clean*, and *Sweet*, and You'll Breed as Many Young Ones again, — For,

They are Neat, Cleanly Little Birds, and Love a Sweet Air, and a Clean, and Sweet Abode.

If Then, The Places Where *Canary Birds* are Bred, were but kept *Sweeter*, & *Cleanlier*, than they are,

And not let be so *Very Nasty*, and *Smell so Strong*, & *Frousty*, as they do, and consequently to Contain a Sweeter, and Wholsomer Air, Nothing near so Many Young *Canary Birds* would Die, as do.

And this *Frousty* Air, Breeders little think to be the Cause of so Many of their Young Birds Dying.

The Best Way to Give Birds *Water*, that Breed *Flying*, is a Quart Bottle, Or a *Florence* Wine Flask Bottle, Turned with the Mouth Downwards, into a Flat Round Marmalade Pot, of about an Inch, and Half Deep, and the Bottle Supported by a Little Frame, that the Water may Fall Down Proportionably, as they Drink it Away.

And to have a Cover to the Marmalade Pot, with One Hole in the Middle, to Take just hold of the Mouth of the Bottle, to Fix it Strait Upright, and Little Holes Round, for them to Drink At.

And, You must Put their Seed in a Trough, with also their Other Food, upon the Table. You may Buy a Pretty Little Bin for Seed, at Any Cage Maker's Shop.

*How to Order the Canary Birds Themselves,  
for Breeding.*

**H**AVING thus Got your Breeding Place in Readyness, and Birds for *Breeding*, to your Liking, Turn your Birds in, Cocks, and Hens, They will Match, and Pair themselves, about the Middle of *February*, if the Spring is Mild.

Or Later, If the Weather is any thing Severe.

*Three*, or 4 Pairs of Birds, are Enough in a Closet, A Room may have More : But always Rather Understock, than (out of Covetousness) Overstock it.

A Moderate Closet, with only *Three*, or *Four* Pairs of Birds, will Succeed much Better, than if you Put *More* Couples into it, They being a Bird that Loves Liberty, and not to be Crowded.

After your Birds have been some Few Days Thus Together, They will Begin, First to Pull About, and Play with the Stuff you Put in the Little Net Abovementioned, for them to Make their Nests with.

And, After they have Diverted themselves a Little with it, being much Pleased to have such Agreeable Household Goods, & Furniture Given them,

They will *Then* Go about their Nest :

In the Building of Which, Both Cock, and Hen Work Pretty Near, Equally Alike. — And,

You will be Surprised to See, what a Charming Neat, Pretty *Little* Nest they will Make,

So Firmly Built all Round, and so Curiously Interwoven, and Quilted Soft, and Warm within Side,

For their Eggs to Lie Safe, and their Young Ones to Lie Soft, Easy, and Warm in, that it is Beyond *All* the Art of Man, to do the Like.

And When a Hen is very *Near* upon Laying, and that *Time* Presses Her, the Cock, & Hen will Work so Hard, that they'll Make a Nest, in a Day's Time.

But When this Necessity of Laying, does not Urge them, They will then Work, as they Please.

And

And, During all this Time, Untill the Hens Lay, and to make them the Heartier, and Stronger for Laying, Give your Birds Good Nourishing Food,

Such as A Little *Naples Bisket*, *Hard Egg*, White, and Yolk together, the Crum of Good White Wheaten Nourishing Bread, and some *Maw Seed*.

Thus, You may Safely Give them *Hard Egg*, to Strengthen, and Hearten them, 'Till They Hatch.

But, You must not give so Plentifully of Egg to them, *After* their Young Ones are Hatcht:

Because, They will Cram their Young Ones too much with it, & *Egg* is not so Good for the Young Ones, as Hereafter will be Shewed, in Page. 38.

Now, To Serve your Birds with Egg, and Bread, without the Daily Trouble of Grating of Either, Do Thus,

When a Hard Egg comes Easily in your Way, (As When You have a Salad, with Hard Eggs)

Slit a Hard *Hen Egg*, Long Ways into Two Halves, (for *Duck Eggs* are too Strong, and Rank, and will Prejudice your Birds)—Then, Drive a Long Slender *Brad Nail*, of an Inch Long, thro' a little Piece of Board, to Stand Strait Up, like a Spike,

Then, Take One of the Halves of the Egg, and Stick it Fast on the Spike, (that the Birds may not Pull it about, But Eat off from it, as it Stands *There* Firm) with the Flat Half of the Yolk Downwards Close to the Board,—Or,



You had Better Put *Two* Spikes, an Inch Distance from Each Other, to Keep the Half of the Egg the Firmer on, that they may not get it Easily off, and Pull it about.

Have also Another such a Little Peece of Flat Board, with *Two* Spikes likewise in it, & Stick thereon a Peece of the Crum of Bread of a Day Old, Only, And





And Sometimes, for Change, Stick on a Little Half Penny *Naples Bisket*, which they mightly Love.

You may have Half a Pound for 5*d.* at any Confectioners, or Pastry Cooks, to Keep by you :

And which will Last you a good While, for they cannot be too Dry Nor too Hard for them.

And *Naples Bisket* having Eggs, Milk, and Sugar, in its Composition, Heartens them very Much.

You will find that the Birds will Pick, and Pick at the Egg, Bread, and Bisket, 'till they have Pick'd Every Bit of them *All Up*, for they will Leave None.

And, Half an Egg Given them thus, will not Sour so Soon in a Lump in Hot Weather, as Egg Grated Small in a Morning, will Sour by Noon.

And also, When Grated Bread, and Egg are Given to them Mixt together, the Soft, Moist Egg, makes even the Grated Bread also to *Sour*, Much Sooner, than a Peece of Bread will, of itself.

And thus You may Give Egg, and Bread to the Birds you design to Breed with, 'till the Time they have Young Ones, to Hearten and Strengthen them the Better for Laying, and Sitting,—But,

When the Young Ones are Hatcht, to Give them *Constantly* Egg is too *Hot* a Food for them :

*Now, and Then*, it may be Given them for a Little Change, but not **CONSTANTLY**.

You must also Against the Hens Lay, as well as Whilst they are Laying, Give them some Whole Oatmeal Grots, *Chickweed*, and *Groundsib*,

All Which They Love extremely well, and are not only Good to Nourish them, but are extraordinary Good to give a *Slippery*ness to the Hens, to Make them Lay much *Easier*.

*How*

*How to Make Young Canary Birds, to be of Any Particular Fine Spangled, Or, of Any Other Colours, that You have a Mind to.*

**I**F you would have Young Ones, from Any One Particular Cock, and Hen, You must Put such a Pair in a Cage by Themselves, 12, or 14 Days. The First Day, or 2, the Hen being Sby, they may perhaps seem not to Agree, but Never Mind That, They'll soon Make it Up, and be Better Acquainted, *Amantium Iræ, Amoris Redintegratio est.*

Which you'll Know, by their Feeding One Another. Which, When you see they Often do, You may Turn them into your Breeding Place, amongst the Rest, And they will (*Dove like*) Keep Constantly to Each Other, tho' amongst 7, or 8 Pairs of Other Birds.

The Generallity of Breeders, Pair thus in Cages by themselves, *All the Couples* they Breed with, Before they Turn them into the Breeding Place, But, If any Person does not care to be at that Trouble, they will Match Themselves very well.

And, What Sort soever you Breed with, besure Chuse the *Largest*, and *Longest* Feather'd Birds of the Sort, you can Get, and not what the *Fanciers* call Small *Short Feather'd Crumplings*, and *Scantlings*.

Also, If your Cock, or Hen is but Small, Then, Match your Small One, with a Larger.

And Observe, that 'tis Better the Hen be the Larger of the Two, to Cover Well her Eggs,

So that, A Small Cock, with a Large Hen, will Breed Better, than a Large Cock, with a Small Hen.<sup>1</sup>

A Hen that has Already Bred, is much Better to Breed with, than a Young Hen, of a Year Old.

Because, Such Old Hens will Sit Closer, and Sur-er, and Feed her Young much Better (which is very Valuable) than Young Giddy Hens, But, a Cock of a Year Old, is as Good for Breeding, as Any.

*How*

*How to Order Canary Birds Whilst They Lay, and Sit: And How, with Safety, to Handle, and Remove an Egg, — For, There is but ONE Only Right Way, to do it.*



**W**HEN the Nest is Built, about which, both *Cock*, and *Hen* Equally Work, The *Hen* will Lay an Egg Every Day, (tho' some *Hens* will Miss a Day between) 'till she has Laid, Seldom under 4, & Rarely above 5.

*Hen Canary Birds Always Lay* Betimes in the Morning, So that, A *Hen* must have Laid her Egg by 7 of the Clock in the Morning, or 8 at Latest.

If She Stays Longer, it is because *She is Sick*, and Cannot Easily Lay, Which You will soon know by her *Uneasyness*, and *Wriggling* about her Nest.

When this Happens, You must Help her, Thus: Take the *Sick Hen* Gently in your Hand, and with the Point of a Large Nail, Put 3, or 4 Drops of Fine Eating Salad Oil, into her Vent, which will make her Lay her Egg Presently, with Ease.

If you Perceive that She Continues still Ill, Open her Bill with a Six Pence, and Make her Swallow a Drop of the same Oil, which will Ease the Gripes, and *Sharp Pains*, She Endures.

And, Put her into a Little Cage by her self, with some Hay in it, and Place her in the Sun, or Before a Fire, if the Sun does not Shine, till She is Well.

These Things will Restore Her to her Former Health, and then Put her to her Old Place, Again.

This *Distemper* Seldom Seizes them, but at Laying their *First*, or *Second Egg*.—And Before She Lays, and also During her whole Laying,

Give her Some Whole Oatmeal Grots, and also *Chickweed*, and *Groundfil*, which will cause a Slipperiness in her Body, and make her Lay Easier.

Having



Having Laid 2, or 3 Eggs, She'll begin to Sit, and Some Breeders Leave Her to her Eggs herself,

But the Generallity of Breeders, do as Follows.

Every Day as She Lays an Egg, Take it Away with a Little Tea Spoon, and Lay it on a Little *Bran*, or *Cotton*, or *Fine Sand*, in a Little Box.

But, Don't Bury it, 'twill *Heat* it, and be in Danger of Addling it.—A Tea Spoon is the only *SAFE Way* to Remove an Egg with.—Whereas,

By Handling them, they are many Times Broke.

For, The Fear of Breaking an Egg, when Handled, makes a Person Take it Up Trembling,

And by that Means, an Egg is often Broke, before one is Aware of it, Either by Pressing it too Hard between the Fingers, Or else by Letting it Fall.

To Hinder any such Accident, which nevertheless Daily happens to the most Experienced Persons,

The Eggs are NEVER to be Meddled with, unless in Case of Absolute Necessity indeed.—And

Then, If you have not a Little Tea Spoon at Hand, You must Take the Egg up Unconcern'd, and without Dread, — Because, The Fear of Breaking it, Oftens proves a dangerous Precaution,

And Many times, even causes you to Break it.

If therefore you *Handle* the Egg, Take it Up pretty Boldly, but yet *Gently*, *Gingerly*, and *Cautiously* withal, by the Two Ends, — For,

*That Way*, it is less Apt to Break, than if Taken up by the Middle, which you must NEVER Do,

Lest it should get any Little Crack, by your Touching it, altho' even Imperceptible, which utterly Spoils your Egg: Because, If an Egg has *Any*, tho' Never so Little a *Crack* in it, that the least Air gets into it, it NEVER will have a Young One.

When therefore your Hen has Laid her First Egg, Take it Away with a Tea Spoon,

And Put an Ivory Egg in the Place of it.

You

You may have Little Ivory Eggs for this Use, at Most Toy Shops. Or you may Make Little *False Eggs* of Little Bits of *Chalk*, your Self.

You must *Never* Substitute Old Addled Eggs in the Room of the Eggs you Take Away:

Because, They often Break in the Nest, and Infect it, and the ill Scent makes the Old Ones Sick.

Take Away in the same Manner, Her 2d Egg, & Add a 2d Ivory Egg, & do the Same at her 3d Egg.

And, If The Next Day She Lays a *Fourth Egg*, Let it Lie, and Take Away the *Three* Ivory Eggs,

And, With a Tea Spoon (for by *No Means*, Ever Meddle with the Eggs, if you can Possibly Help it, for Fear of the Worst) Place in Her Former 3 Eggs, to Her 4th Egg.—And, If after having Laid 3 Eggs, the Next Day she does not Lay A 4th Egg.—Then,

Take Away the 3 False Ivory Eggs, and Return Her her Own 3 Eggs, into her Nest, Again.

Do *This* at Every Sitting, For, Should you leave the Hens their *Own Right Eggs*, and not take them Away, and Put False Ones in their Room,

They would Hatch at Several times, and the *First* Young Birds Hatch'd, being Stronger than *Those*, which would come 2 Days After, Would Take all the Food from the Hen, & also Stifle the *Last* *Comers*.

When the Hen has Set 7 Days, Look at the Eggs against the Sun, or a Candle, in your Tea Spoon,

Or, Lay the Eggs One after Another, in the Palm of your Hand, & Shading your other Hand over it, you'll Know the *Good* Eggs, from the *Bad* Ones, Thus,

Those Eggs which you perceive (Holding them thus Against the Light) to be *Clear*, and in a manner Transparent, Take them Away, and Break them,

They are *Addled*, & good for Nothing, & will only Tire the Hen to no Purpose, in Sitting on them.

But those Eggs which Look of a Deep *Blue* Colour, and *Thick*, are Very Good Eggs.

And

And, *Now* Appears the great Conveniency of Having *More* Pairs of Birds, than *One*.—Because,

If 2, or 3 Hens are but Set on the *Same* Day, if *Any* of the Eggs Prove *Addle*, Then Put all the Good Eggs into *One*, or 2 Nests, of the *Same* Age,

And Take *One* of the Hen's Nests Away, & She'l Go Again to Nest the Sooner.—For Example,

If you have Several Pairs of *Canary Birds*, whose Hens have Laid Near about the *Same* Days,

Then, Take Away the *Addle* Eggs from Every Hen, & out of 3 Hens that have Nests, Leave only *Two* Hens Sitting, Distributing the Good Eggs of the 3 Nests, between the 2 Hens, you leave Sitting,

And the 3d Hen deprived of her Nest, will much *Sooner* make a New Nest, and Lay Again.

This being thus done, Leave the *Two* Sitting Hens, to themselves, without Meddling with them, any *More*.—And, After a Hen has Sat, just 13 Days, and 12 Hours, the Eggs will of themselves Break, and the Young Ones will Come Out,

Either *All* Together (which is by Far the *Best* Way) if you Took Away her Eggs, as She Laid them, in the Manner Abovementioned,

Or, Successively, *One*, by *One*, *One* Day after Another, if her Eggs were not Taken Away.

Thus for Instance, If You Lay 4 or 5 Eggs under your Hen on a *Saturday*, at 7 in the Morning,

There will be Young Ones Hatched, Under the Old Ones Wings, Next *Thursday* Sennight, in the Evening.

So that, On *Fryday* Morning, as Soon as you Please,

You may expect to See a Parcel of Little, almost Naked *Things*, having only a Little Fine *Down* on them, and no Bigger than Spiders,

Stretching Up their Little Long Necks, & Gaping their Little, but *Wide* enough *Mouths* (which is the very *First* Motion, that Nature Prompts them with) Ready to Take What ever is Put into them.



*How to Order Canary Birds, When they Hatch,  
And Whilst they have Young Ones.*



**F**OR the First Day at least,  
After Young *Canary Birds*  
are Hatch'd, the Old Ones  
Give them No Food at all,  
But Nourishes them only with  
*Warmth*, by Brooding, and Sit-  
ting on them, After which, Both  
Cock, & Hen will Feed them, Thus:

They First Fill their own Crops with the *Scalded Bread*, the Seeds of the Greens, the Custard, and Dry Bisket, All Hereafter Mentioned in Page 39:

And Mix it *All Together* in their Own Crops, & then, Disgorge it into the Young One's Little Mouths.

By which Means, they *Warm, Concoct*, and Half Digest the Meat, *First* in their own Crops, *Before* ever they Put it into the Young One's Mouths,

Which is most Natural for them, Because, *This* Takes off the Coldness, and Crudity of the Meat, to Lie Easy on their Tender Stomachs.

And, After the Old Ones have thus Fed their Young, the Hen Always Sits on them some Time,

To Brood, and Cherish them by *Warmth Outwardly*, whilst their Food Nourishes them *Inwardly*, and to make their Food to Digest the Better.

And, For Want of this Natural Way of Ordering Young Birds it is, that People who Take Nests of Birds in the Fields, so Soon Kill them.

Because, The Old Birds are the Best, and most *Natural Nurses* for their Young Ones, in the World:

For, They Warm their Meat in their own Crops, *Before* they give it to the Young Ones more Naturally, and Kindly, than any Meat can be *Warmed*.

The Heat also of their Bodies, by Sitting Over them, *After* they have Fed them, is a more Natural *Warmth*, than all the Coverings in the World.

And

And for Want of this Natural Way of Treating *Young Birds*, it is, that So Many Boys, and Girls, so *Soon* Nurse *Whole* Nests of *Young Birds*, into their Graves.—Thus, They, Both Cock, & Hen, will Feed them, 'till they Get Out of the Nest,

Which they will do, about 3 Weeks after they are Hatch'd. —And Then, They will begin to Fly a Little, and Follow the Old Ones About,

Hovering, and Shaking their Wings for Food, which the Old Ones (notwithstanding they may be going to Nest again) will Still Give them,

'Till they can Crack Seeds, and Feed themselves on the Scalded Bread, Greens, Custard, Bisket, &c.

Nay, And after they can even Crack Seeds, and Fully Feed themselves, they will Still Follow the Old Ones about, Gaping, & Hovering, and Shaking their Wings to be Fed, And the Old Ones are also so Fond, as to Continue on still, to Feed them.

And, If a Cock, or Hen should happen to Die, During their thus having Young Ones, The Survivor, *Cock*, or *Hen*, will Bring them Up *Alone*.—But,

When the Young Ones can Fully Feed themselves, & Crack Seeds, The Best Way (if your Breeding Place is but *Small*) is to Draw the *Young Ones* off,

And to Put them all Together, in some Large Cage, or Partition by themselves,—Otherwise,

They will so Follow after, & Pester the Old Ones, Still to Feed them, that they will be a Disturbance to them, in their *Next* Laying, and Sitting.—But,

If you Breed in a Good *Large* Room, Then, You need not be at the Trouble of Drawing the Young Ones off, Having Room Enough for them.

But, If you *Do* Draw the Young Ones off, Altho' they *Now* begin to Crack Seeds, Yet, You must Besides, Supply them for a While, with the *Same* Food, such as Scalded Bread, &c. that the Old Ones Fed them with, Whilst they were in the Nest,

Left

Left, If they should not take to Crack Seeds Presently, they should be at a Loss, for Food.

And, The Better to Teach them to Crack Seeds, NOW, their Stomachs being a Little Stronger, You may give them some Scalded Rape Seed.

Young *Canary Birds*, for Some Time After they are Flown Out of the Nest, will Frequently in the Day Time, Sit on a Pearch, with their Heads Under their Wings, but Never Mind *That*,

For, It is No Sign at all, of their being *Not Well* :

Because, As Young Infants Sleep *Often* in the Day Time, which Grown Persons do not, And, which Sleeping Nourishes them, as much as their Food,

So, Young *Canary Birds*, will Sleep *Often* in the Day Time, Especially after Feeding, with their Heads under their Wings, altho' they are in Perfect Health, and which Frequent Sleeping, Nourishes *Them* also, almost as much as their Food.

**I**F any One does not Approve of the Above Way, of not Giving the Old Ones Hard Egg, to Feed their Young Ones with, — At least,

A Hard Egg, and Crum of Bread, Stuck Each upon 2 Spikes, as Above in Page 27. will save them a Deal of Trouble in *Grating*, or *Chopping* them Small :

And the Old Ones, will thus Eat Up themselves the Egg from off the Spikes, and then Disgorge their Own Crops, and Feed their Young Ones with Both Egg, and Bread, FULL AS WELL, as if they were *Grated*, or *Chopp'd* into Small Bits.

Since therefore, This Easy Way of Half an Egg upon TWO Spikes, is found by Experience, to Rear the Young Ones, *Full As Well*, as the Troublesome Way of *Grating* it, by those who Do Give their Young Ones Any Hard Egg, It is Certainly, the most Preferable, as having the *Pleasure, Without the Toil*.  
Of



*Of the Common Way, of Grating Egg, & Bread,  
& Scalding Rape Seed, for Young Canary Birds.*

**T**IS a Common Way, to Grate Egg,  
and Bread, and Mix with it Rape Seed,  
First Scalded, & then Bruised, to Give to  
Old Canary Birds, to Feed their Young Ones with,  
Which is not Only *Improper* Food for them, but  
is a *Daily Trouble* to the Breeder, to Prepare it.

And therefore, is very often the only Difficulty,  
that Hinders Many, from Breeding *Canary Birds*,

Who, Was it not for this *Daily Trouble* of  
Grating Egg, and Bread, and Scalding of Rape  
Seed, would Willingly have this Little Diversion.

There is No One, that Loves to Breed these  
Little Birds, that would Grudge the Charge of  
an Egg, or Two, That's *Not the Question*.—But,

The *Fuss*, and *Fiddle Faddle*, there is Every Day,  
in Boiling the Egg, and then Grating It, & the Bread,  
and Mixing them with *Scalded*, & *Bruised* Rape Seed,

Is a Trouble that No One would be Fond of, if the  
Young Ones would but Thrive *As Well*, without it.

Which They most Certainly *Will*, As Any One  
will soon find, that does but Leave off giving  
the Old Ones Grated Egg, and Bread, and Scalded  
Rape Seed, to Feed their Young Ones with.

If therefore, *This Daily Trouble* was but Taken  
Away, Many would be Glad to Breed *Canary Birds*,  
that do not, being Affraid of the Trouble of it:

And also, Many would Continue on Breeding,  
who Leave it off, purely because of this Trouble.

For, A Little Pretty Diversion, Daily to Require  
a Troublesome Attendance, does not Recompense.

'Tis making *A Toil of a Pleasure* — If Therefore,

A more *Wholsome* Food can be Given them,  
without such Trouble, Every Breeder would doubt-  
less be Glad of it, as is the Easy Food Hereafter,  
in Page 39, which is with Very Little Trouble.

Now,

Now, and then (but not *Constantly* Every Day) You may Give the Old Ones a Little Hard Egg, which to do, without the Trouble of Grating &c.

You may Give them a Whole Half of a Hard Egg in One Lump, Stuck on *Two* Little Spikes, to keep it Firm on, as Ordered Above in Page 27.

Thus, You have no Farther Trouble, Because, A Half Egg given in this Manner, will keep *Sweet*, 'till They have Eat it all Up, — Whereas,

Grated Egg, and Bread, Mix'd with Scalded Rape Seed, Given them in a Morning, will in Hot Weather, be Stale, and *Sour*, by Noon, — For,

Rape Seed Scalded, Sours Presently, which will Put your Birds into a Scow'ring, & Kill them, but Scalded Bread only, will not be Sour, in *A Whole Day*.

So that, If in the Summer Time, Grated Egg, and Bread, with Scalded Rape Seed, is not given them *Fresh, Twice a Day*, you will Loose your Young Ones.

But, By Giving them, Now, and Then only, thus a Half Egg, you Avoid all that *Fufs*, & Trouble.

Egg, is too Hot to be *Constantly* Given to Young *Canary Birds*, and Over-Heats them too much.

And *Scalded Rape Seed* is too *Sharp*, and *Pungent* for their Tender Little Stomachs, and is the Cause, that so many Young *Canary Birds* Die, as Do.

The Breeders are Surprised at it, and Cannot Imagin the Reason: Whereas, It is Nothing Else,

But The Young One's Little Tender Stomachs are *Over Heated* with having *Too Much Egg*,

And, Are Stimulated, and Fretted by the *Sharpness*, and *Pungency* of the Rape Seed, which Causes so Many Young *Birds* to Drop off, as oftentimes Disheartens the Breeder, from Breeding any Longer.

Therefore, A much Easier Way, and with Nothing of that *Daily Trouble*, of Grateing Every Day an Egg, and Bread, and Scalding of Rape Seed, and then Bruising it &c. is to Do, as Follows.

*An Easier Prepared, and Better Food, for Young  
Canary Birds, than Grated Egg, & Rape Seed.*



**P**our a Little Boiling Water  
upon some Crum of Bread,  
And, When it has Soaked  
a While, Squeeze out the Bread  
pretty Hard, that it may not be too  
Soft, to Loosen the Young Birds,  
And Strew a Little *Maw Seed*  
amongst it, if you have any, *By you.*

But, If you happen to have No *Maw Seed*, *By you*,  
Then, Give the Old Ones the Scalded Bread Only,  
upon a Little Saucer, And you will Presently See,

How *Eagerly* they'l Feed their Young Ones with it,  
And Good WHEATEN BREAD, *Thus Scalded*,  
is a most Wholesome, & Nourishing Food for them.

And that more especially, When the Old Ones  
have Mix'd in their *Own* Warm Crops, Some  
Other Nourishing Food along with it, — For,

You will Plainly See the Food in the Young One's  
Crops, to be *Visibly* PARTY COLOURED, *Viz.*

WHITEISH, with the *Scalded Bread*,

GREENISH, with the *Chickweed*, & *Groundfil*,

And BLACKISH, with the *Maw Seed*, &c.

All Mixed *First* Togather, in the Old One's Crops.

And, Continue also *This* Food for the Young  
Ones, 'till they can Crack Seeds, Themselves.

Now, and Then, But not *Con-*  
*stantly*, You may give them a  
Little Hard Egg, with also a  
Peece of the Crum of Bread,

Without any Trouble of Grate-  
ing of Either, But Each of them  
Stuck upon T W O Spikes, as  
Represented in *This* Print, and

Directed How to be Ordered, Above in Page 27.

And







And Also, You would do very Well, to Give them Often a Penny Custard,

Or a Little Half Penny *Naples Bisket*, Stuck on *Two* Spikes, as Represented in this Print, and Directed Above in Page 27.

*All this* will never Prejudice, or Heat them, as Egg, & Rape Seed, Constantly Given them, Does.

No one can Say there is any Trouble in Getting a Half Penny Bisket, or a Little Penny Custard, Ready to their Hands, at Any Pastry Cooks.

And, When The Young Ones are Hatch'd, Besure don't let the Old Ones Want good Ripe *Seedy Chickweed*, and *Groundsil*, & Put in a small Saucer, Nothing else but a Little *Scalded Bread*,

And if You will, you may Mix a Little *Maw Seed* with it, without any Farther Trouble of Any *Grateing* of Egg, and Bread, and Scalding Rape Seed, there being *No Manner of Need of it, At all.*—And

The Young One's Crops will be Fill'd with this *Diversity of Food*, Mixed together by the Old Ones.

For, It is not with the *Scalded Bread Alone*, that they will Feed their Young Ones, — But

It is with this just now Mentioned *Mixture* of Warm, & Digested Food, First, in their Own Crops, Before ever they Give it to their Young Ones,

Tho', even *Scalded Bread Alone* by itself, is so Fit, and Proper a Food for them, that Whole Nests of Young Ones, have been Rear'd, With Nothing but *Scalded Bread Alone*, & *Chickweed*, & *Groundsil*,

For, Without such *Seedy Greens*, The Old Birds will Never Kindly Rear their Young Ones,

The Custard, & Bisket, have Eggs Enough in their Composition, to Nourish them, as to the *Egg Part*:

And *More* of the Egg, especially, whilst the Little Ones are *Very Young* indeed, may be *Let Alone*.

*Which*

*Which Sort of Chickweed, and Groundsil, is Best for Canary Birds. And, In Want of These, What Other Greens to Give them.*



**I**N Warmish Weather, Give Your Birds some Ripe, SEEDY Chickweed, and Groundsil, Or a Few Heads of *Dandelion*, when they are a Little Openish, Seedy, and Near Blowing.—For, 'Tis the Seeds of these Greens, that the Birds Wholly Delight in:—So that,

The Riper, and SEEDYER these Greens are, the Better they are, for them.——Give them also, some Young, Fine *Radish Leaves*.—Or,

A Leaf, or 2, Or a Little of the Heart of a Goss, Cabbage, or *Silesia Lettice*, Or, a Little *Selery*.

And, Towards *August*, When *Chickweed*, and *Groundsil* begin to be Scarce upon the Ground,

Then, Give them some of the Fine of the Inside of a Head of *Endive*, which is a Salad Herb, to be Had at most Herb Shops, and which they Mightily Love, & some Stalks of Ripe *Plantan*:

Or, a Little Wild Rape, or Turnep Seeds.

All Which, You'l see Grow on almost Every Bank, and Ditch Side, if you Walk but Out in the Fields.

Ripe *Plantan*, is One Seedy Stalk, of about 4, or 5 Inches, Long, And Wild Turnep, & Rape,

Each Bears it's Seed, in a Small Slender Pod, the Thickness of a Wheat Straw, about an Inch Long.

Gather your *Chickweed*, Not of That Sort, that is very Thick of Leaves, which is too Rank, Watery, and Moist, for them, and has Very Few Seeds.

For, 'tis the Seeds of the *Chickweed*, & *Groundsil*, which they Pick out of the Greens, and Love.

Chuse therefore *Chickweed*, & *Groundsil*, for *Canary Birds*, that have the Fewest, and Smallest Leaves:

And *Then*, They have Always the *Most* Seeds,  
As Such *Chickweed*, and *Groundsil* Always have,  
that Grow on the *DRYEST*, and most *Barren*,  
*Sandy*, & *Gravelly* Ground, that you can Find, And,  
Such *Chickweed*, and *Groundsil*, are always the  
*Seediest*, *Sweetest*, and *Best* for them. — Whereas,

What Grows in *Cold*, *Watery* Places, have always  
the most *Watery*, & *Flashy* Leaves, & *Fewest* Seeds.

And, What Seeds They even have, are *Cold*,  
*Moist*, *Flashy*, and *Watery*, and will give your  
Birds a *Scow'ring*, which will very often Kill them.

Don't give them any *Chickweed*, *Too Soon* in the  
*Spring*, whilst it is *Cold*, being Naturally a *Cold*  
*Watery* Weed, and therefore is not Good for *Canary*  
*Birds*, but only in *Warm* Weather, — And,

Even *Then*, If your *Chickweed* is not *Seedy*, give  
them *None*, for they don't Care for the Leaves of it.

But, As for Ripe *SEEDY* *Groundsil*, or *Dandelion*,  
You may give it to your Birds, as *Soon* as you can  
Get them, they being Weeds of a *Warmer* Nature.

### Of *Shepherd's Purse*.



**T**HERE is Weed that Grows  
in almost ALL *Barren* Court  
Yards, even in *Cities*, and *Towns*:  
For, The more *Barren* the Ground  
is, even amongst *Stones*, the *More*  
Plentyfully *This Weed* Grows.

You may Know it, by it's Bearing a very Little,  
and Very *Flat* Seedy Bag, as Small as a *Barly* Corn,  
and Exactly of the Shape of a Little *HEART*.

*This Shepherd's Purse* Seed, they Love mightily,  
and it is very Good for them, And you may Get  
it commonly *Any Where*, in most *Barren* Places, *All*  
*Summer* Long, Where *Any Weeds* do but Grow,

For, There is Always *Some* of it, amongst Weeds.

*The*



*The Only Good Way of Scalding Rape Seed,  
for Young Canary Birds.*

**A**S this Book is *Wholly* Designed, to make the *Breeding of Canary Birds*, to be with much Less Trouble, & Greater Pleasure, than the Common Way of Breeding, is. — So,

If Persons are but Willing to be at the Trouble *Every Day* of Either Grating, or Chopping very Small, Hard Egg, and Bread, and Mixing with it Scalded Rape Seed, &c. It is not Here at all Denied, but that it is an Admirable Food, for them,

Excepting Only, that *Egg Every Day*, is not so Proper for the *Very Young Nestlings*, as has been Said.

And, As for *Scalding of Rape Seed*, to Mix along with their Bread, and Egg, the *Only Beneficial Way* to do it for the Young Ones, Is Thus.

Soak some *Rape Seed* in Boiling Hot Water, some *Few Hours*, and then, Take the Seed Clean Out, and Wash it well, in some *Cold Water*.

Which is the *ONLY Way* to Take off the *Sharpness*, and *Pungency* of it, which the Scalding has Thrown Out into it's Surface, and Outward Hull.

For, Without this Washing the Scalded Seed Afterwards in *Cold Water*, it is not near so *Fit* for their Young Tender Stomachs, tho' the Old Ones can Bear the Scalded Rape Seed *Unwash'd*, very well.

And, After The Young Birds are *Some Days* Old, you may Safely Put of it on a Saucer,

Either by itself, or Mixed with Grated Egg, & Bread, for the Old Birds to Feed them with,

If you are but only Willing, to be at the *Daily* Trouble of Grating the *Egg*, and *Bread*, &c.

The Main Design of this Book, being to *Encourage* a Little, the Breeding of these Birds,

By Putting Persons into a *Far Easier Way* of it, than Commonly is Used, by Saving *That Daily* Trouble of *Grating Egg*, and *Bread*, &c.

*How*

*How to Make Canary Birds to Eat Less of  
Canary Seed, & More of Rape, which is  
Wholesomest for them, tho' they Love it Least.*

**T**O do this, You must Put in your  
Breeding Place, ALL *Canary Seed* in One  
Dish, or Trough by it self, and at a  
Distance off, Give them ALL *Rape Seed*, by it self.

By this Means, Seeing No *Canary Seed* Amongst  
the *Rape*, they'l Eat at Times, heartyly of the *Rape*  
*Seed*, which they *Will Not Do*, as Long as they See a  
Grain of *Canary Seed* Before them, Mixed with *Rape*.

For, They *All* (except here, & there, a particular  
Bird) Love the *Canary Seed* Best, because 'tis Sweetest.

And Therefore, As *Rape* is a Sharpish kind of  
*Seed*, & *Canary Seed* is Sweet, and more Pleasant,

They Love it so *Well*, that as Long as a *Canary*  
*Bird*, sees *Canary Seed* Mixed Along with the *Rape*,

There is scarce One Bird in 20, but will, Gene-  
rally Speaking, Pick out *All* the *Canary Seed* First,

And Eat Little, or No *Rape Seed* at all, as long  
as they See but a Grain of *Canary Seed*, Before them.

But, By this Way of Separating the *Rape Seed*,  
from the *Canary*, You will Find, that your Birds  
will Eat a Deal *More* *Rape Seed* (which is *Whol-*  
*somest* for them) than they would otherwise do, if  
they saw *Canary Seed*, Mixed Along with the *Rape*.

For, Some Birds will not Touch a *Rape Seed*, as  
Long as they See ONE *Canary Seed* Amongst it.

But, Those that Eat *Most* *Rape Seed*, are al-  
ways *Stout*, *Healthy*, *Strong*, and Long Lived *Birds*.

And, If you do but *Wash* some *Scalded Rape*  
*Seed*, in Cold Water, to take off the Sharpness and  
Pungency of it, as Directed Above in Page 43.

And so Give it to the Young Birds, When they  
begin to Crack Seed themselves, it will Invite them  
to Eat much *More* of *Rape Seed*, than they would  
Otherwise do, if the *Rape Seed* was not so *Washed*.

*How*



## How to Cure a SICK Canary Bird.



**W**HEN a *Canary Bird* is Sick, & out of Order, It Generally Proceeds from

*This:* On the Top of their Rump, is a Little Pimple, (which some Call the *Pip on the Rump*) At which they often Peck, to Draw out an *Oily Moisture*, which Nature There Supplies them with, to keep them in Health, Thus.

This *Moisture* they Peck out, and take in their Bills, and Dress, and Oil their Wings, with it.

Now, As long as this Pimple Abounds, and Supplies them with this *Moisture*, they Constantly Dress their Feathers with it, & Keeps them in Health.

But, If this Pimple is DRY, and has *None* of this *Moisture* in it, as at Certain Times, it has not,

Then, The Bird Pines, and Grows Sick, for Want of it, and No Body Knows What it Ails.

Insomuch, That the Bird will at Times, Peck so much at *That Pimple*, to get the *Oily Moisture* Out of it, as to Make it Sore, and Raw. — Now,

To Remedy this General Cause of *Most Distempers* in *Canary Birds*, You must Take the Bird Gently in your Hand, And, With the End of a Large Nail, Put 3, or 4 Drops of the Best Eating Oil upon this Pimple, and Supple it well with it, and Put him into his Cage Again.

And Give him a Little *Maw Seed*, which will Cherish, and Comfort him, and Put the Bigness of a Nutmeg of Loaf Sugar, into his Water,

Which will Render it more Agreeable, than Bare Fair Water, So that he will Drink more Freely of it, And Often Drinking, is at *This Time*, Good for him.

So that, For Want of thus Supplying this Pimple with this *Oily Moisture*, and thereby Assisting Nature in *This Point*, a Great Many Birds Die, and No Body ever thinks of What they have Ailed.

And



And, If your Bird does *Not* Recover, Spirt upon him *Suddenly*, a little Fair Water, out of your Mouth.

And, Set him in a Cage in the Sun, or Before a Fire, to *Dry*, and to Peck, and Refresh himself.

Thus Spiriting a Little Water so *Suddenly* on the Bird, is a Remedy that is Good for *Most* Distempers in Birds, and especially in *Fits*, which they are often Subject to, And Acts on the Bird, as the Cold Bath does on a Human Body, in Several Distempers:

Which, By it's *Sudden* Surprise of Coldness, gives a Sudden Shock and Turn to the Humors in the Body, and thereby, the Person Receives Benefit.

So in like Manner, The Very *Sudden* Spiriting of the Water on the Bird, gives such a Sudden Shock, & Turn to it's Distemper, as to Cure the Bird.

A Blade, or 2 of Saffron is Commonly Prescribed when a Bird is *Sick*, to be Put into his Water,

But, It is Doing *Meer Nothing*, Because, Only ONE Blade, or 2, & no *More*, is not Enough to give the Water *Sufficient Virtue*, to do the Bird *Any* Good.

And, If you Put *More* in, it will Turn the Water so *Yellow*, that he will be Affraid to Drink of it,

And also, It will give the Water such a Disagreeable Taste, that he will Drink Scarce *Any* of it:

But, Suppose he should Drink *Enough* of it, to do him any Good, Such a Quantity of Saffron, that is Requisite to make the Water to have a Sufficient Effect upon the Bird, will Over-Heat the Bird, and so do him more Harm, than Good.

For a *Canary Bird*, being Naturally a Very Hot Creature, should have Cooling, and Refreshing things Given him *Inwardly*, and kept Warm *Outwardly*.

Therefore, A Little Lump of Loaf Sugar in his Water, is much Better for him, than an Insignificant Blade, or 2 only, and No *More*, of Saffron,

For, The Sugar will Render the Water so Agreeable, as to make him Drink Freely, and Often of it, which will Comfort, Cool, and Refresh him.

If

If a Bird has a Swelling of it's Belly, which then Looks Bulky, and Red, (which is a *Common Distemper* to *Canary Birds*, from having got Cold.)

Or, If a *Canary Bird* is *Husky*, which you will Know by it's Sitting Melancholy, Gaping, and Snapping it's Bill, and Fetching it's Breath very Short.—Then, If the Bird is Amongst Others,

Take him Away, and Put him in a Cage by himself, and Give him some *Bread Boiled in Milk*, & some *Maw Seed* Mixt with it, & Keep him Warm.

This will Scour him a Little at First, and Bring Away those Humors which Cause his Illness;

But, After that, He will Recover, and Dung Hard, and Round, as a Healthy Bird should do.—Also,

Put the Bigness of a *Pea*, of *Roch Alum*, into his Water to Dissolve, Renewing Fresh Water, with a Fresh Bit of Alum in it, Every Day.

When you Perceive a Bird to be Loose, and to have a Violent Scow'ring, Pull Gently, One, by One, *Some* of, Or If the Bird is very *Bad* indeed,

ALL the Feathers out of his Tail, & with a Pair of Scissars, Clip the Feathers Close about his Vent.

And Quench the End of a Red Hot Poker in his Water, and give him *Maw Seed*, & the *Tolk* of an Egg, Boiled Very Hard, Mixed together.

And Likewise, Put a Little Bit of Iron, such as a Six Penny Nail into his Water, and Change the Water Twice a Week, still Leaving the Nail in it.

These Little Means, have Cured Numbers of Sick Birds. And, Thus, By a Little Care, and Management, A *Canary Bird* will Live Many Years.

You must Always keep a Sick Bird in a Warm Place, Or in a Warm Sun, or by a Fire: For, *Warmth* is sometimes Half a Cure, especially for a Distemper Coming from Cold, as a Swelled Belly in a Bird is.

And Give him a Little Half Penny *Naples Bisket*.

APPENDIX.





## APPENDIX.

**I**F You Happen to have Any Quantity of *Ghickweed*, *Groundfil*, or *Shepherd's Purse*, at a Time, Put them into a Deep Earthen Pan, in a Cool Place, and they will Keep Good, a Week. And, If you Put a Handfull of the Long Stalks of *Groundfil* into a Deep Gallypot with Water, And Set the Gallypot, in your Breeding Place, for the Birds to Pick at, it will *Ripen, & Blow*.

You should have a *Little Hand Net*, with a Handle to it, to Take a Bird with, out of your Breeding Place. To be Had at Any Net Shop.

Have also a *Little Hand Rake*, which by Drawing it Over the Gravel, will at Any Time, Clean it.

Several Hens may be Kept in One Cage, Out of Breeding Time, but Every Cock must have a Single Cage, because they'll Fight, but Hens will not.

Your Gravel must be Very Dry, Else it will give your Birds the *Cramp* in their Feet.

You may Know Young *Cock Canary Birds*, by their begining to Record, Warble, and Quiver in their Little Throats, at about Six Weeks, or Two Months Old, which *Hens* Do not, at All.—And

Have a Good Lump of *Loaf Sugar*, or *Chalk* (too Big for the Birds to Pull about) in your Breeding Place.

They'll often Peck at it, and it will Absorbe, and Destroy many *Sharp Humors*, which Cause Distempers in them: And therefore, *Chalk* is as Wholsome for *Them*, as it is for the *Heart Burn*, and some Other Illnesses in a Human Body.—So

That, Nothing you can Give them, will Concur More, to Keep them in *Constant Health*, than *Chalk*.

In Any Illness in a Bird, Give him *Maw Seed*, which is a *Cordial*, and being a fine Sweet Seed, He'll Eat of it, when he will Eat Nothing else.

And Sometimes, Give your Birds a Little Very Fine *Hempseed*, to Warm, and Cherish them.

F I N I S.



